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Wrestling

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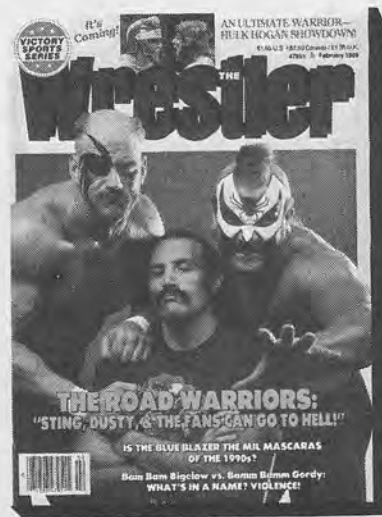
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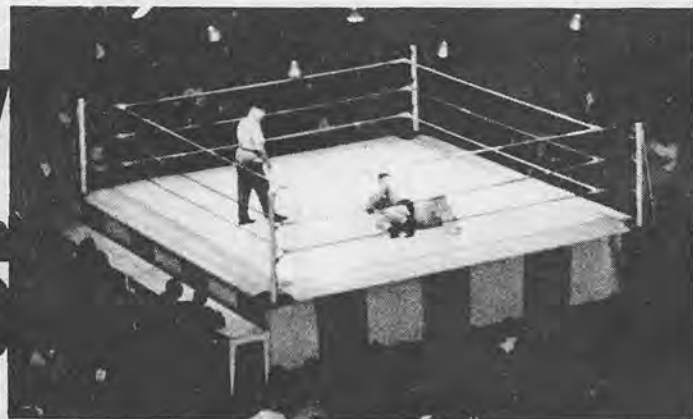
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SINCERELY YOURS



THE DUSTY DEBATE

I've been watching the WWF for a long time now, and I've grown used to seeing good wrestlers degrade themselves after joining the federation (Terry Taylor, Ronnie Garvin, etc.). When I saw Dusty Rhodes delivering pizza, pumping gas, and shoveling horse manure, I wanted to shoot Vince McMahon.

But wait, doesn't Dusty control his own actions? What happened to the three-time NWA World champion and

not plumbers. A few months ago, he told the wrestling world that he was going back to Florida where his loyal and original fans were. Now he turned against them just to gain new ignorant ones that really believe he is just the pizza man. Oh, if your friends Nikita Koloff and Magnum T.A. could see you now.

Hey, weren't you ... a great wrestler?

JEFF BACKHURST
Detroit



Dusty Rhodes has disgraced himself since joining the WWF, writes Jeff Backhurst.

former U.S. champion that the fans, if not loved, at least respected? It's pretty depressing to think that this is what Dusty does with all of his experience. Well, thanks a lot, you toilet-fixing, taco-making fool!

Don't get me wrong. It's not the jobs that bother me, but this man is—or was—one of the greatest *wrestlers*,

I was very annoyed by Stu Saks' comments about Eddie Ellner in the August 1989 issue ("Editor's Notebook"). Saks criticized Ellner for his "literary attacks" on Dusty Rhodes.

Let's get down to reality. Why do you continue to give praise to a man who can't have a relationship with a fellow wrestler for a long period of time (remember Barry Windham, Ronnie Garvin, The Road Warriors, and Steve Williams) and is best known for his stomach? Dusty is a disgrace to the sport.

Saks said that the only reason Ellner hates Rhodes is because he doesn't look like an athlete. Saks defends Rhodes' obesity by saying, "Nothing in the wrestling rulebook says that the competitors must all have the body of Lex Luger." True, but nobody said you have to be a scientific wrestler, either, and that is something Saks and the staff of *Inside Wrestling* condemn wrestlers for not being.

I say leave Ellner alone.

JOHN MOLINARO
Burlington, Ontario



When Elizabeth managed Randy Savage, she showed guts. That can't be said for Sherri Martel, in Amanda Racz' view.

LIZ THE GREAT

I'm writing to point out just how much guts Elizabeth has. As most of you probably know, Randy "Macho Man" Savage has chosen "Scary" Sherri as his new manager.

Mistake!

Sherri would *never* put herself on the line to save her man. Think back to *Saturday Night's Main Event* in January. Hulk Hogan was scheduled to wrestle Akeem, but Big Bossman came to ringside to "observe." Throughout the match, Bossman constantly interfered. Akeem intentionally got himself disqualified. After knocking out the referee, Akeem and Bossman started beating up Hogan.

Elizabeth climbed into the ring to

distract Bossman and Akeem from Hogan. Bossman approached Elizabeth and handcuffed her. Would "Scary" Sherri have climbed into the ring and been willing to put her body on the line?

Give Elizabeth the respect she deserves! She's earned it. She has real guts.

AMANDA RACZ
Boise, Idaho

VON ERICH QUESTION

Will someone please tell me why the Von Erichs are given so much space and are talked about so much? I subscribe to seven different wrestling magazines, and every one mentions them at least twice in each issue. Why?

I've never seen them do anything so

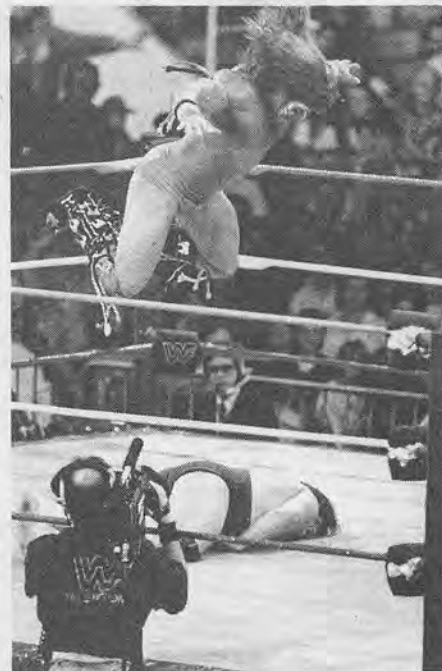
THE NEW MORTON

Todd Morton has returned to the Continental area and is setting it on fire with his enthusiasm, warmth, friendliness, and, of course, his wrestling skills. In just a year's time, Todd has grown tremendously as a wrestler. He is gaining more experience teaming with Danny Davis. Rick Morton is even calling Todd the third member of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. He has also been wrestling in singles matches in addition to the tag matches.

Todd's wrestling knowledge is growing by leaps and bounds. He is beginning to try many high-risk moves, along with what looks like a very solid sleeperhold. Even though his popularity is growing like wildfire, he is still the same loveable guy of a year ago. He

for that in speed and agility. I wish you would run something in your magazine about Todd Morton. He's great and the world should know it.

ANGIE SEXTON
Knoxville, TN



The Ultimate Warrior leaps on Gary Royal. Reader Mike Manges has no respect for the Warrior's wrestling ability.



Kerry and Kevin Von Erich impress a lot of people, but they don't faze reader Ray Powers, who wonders why the Von Erichs are so popular.

great. When they make their way to the ring, it seems all the women go crazy. Again, why?

I give up. I can't figure out why they are so wonderful. Yes, they are fair wrestlers, but that's all.

RAY POWERS
New Berlin, NY

will always make the time to talk to someone and give them an autograph or a hug. He keeps the hopes and dreams of the fans alive.

If Todd keeps gaining knowledge and experience like he is, he will be unstoppable. He may not be the biggest or the strongest, but he makes up

THE ULTIMATE DISGRACE

I'm sick and tired of reading about The Ultimate Warrior and his supposed skills. The name of the game is wrestling, not shaking the ropes before matches, not flexing muscles, and not growling incoherently during interviews.

I thought I'd never see a wrestler with a repertoire of moves more limited than the four or five holds utilized by Hulk Hogan, wrestling's cartoon champion. But you can count all the maneuvers The Ultimate Warrior knows on one hand and still have enough fingers left to count his I.Q.! And you guys take this bum seriously!

In the words of Gorilla Monsoon, *give me a break!* Heck, next you guys will be calling Abdullah the Butcher the greatest scientific wrestler of the century. I wouldn't be too surprised. Technically, Ultimate Warrior makes Abdullah look like Ric Flair!

MIKE MANGES
Barberton, OH
(Continued on page 48)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

I went to Dothan, Alabama, to cover Dennis Condrey's title match with Continental champ Tom Prichard, and I don't think I'll ever look at wrestling the same way ever again.

The original thought behind the trip was to write about Condrey's solo career since the breakup of the "Original" Midnight Express and his split with Randy Rose and Paul E. Dangerously. Condrey, sans partner and manager, had become a fan favorite and had closed in on Prichard's title. A good story made even better when Condrey used a backslide to win the match.

But Condrey's celebration would have to wait. He was scheduled to compete in the "Rage In The Cage" battle royal later on the card. If you have never seen one of these matches (I never had), get ready for these rules: The battle royal takes place in a cage. You are eliminated only by pinfall. When you are pinned, you are handcuffed to the cage. The winner is not only given the prize money (in this case \$10,000), but he is given the privilege of unlocking one man, with whom he is allowed to take free shots at the helpless slobs still cuffed to the cage.

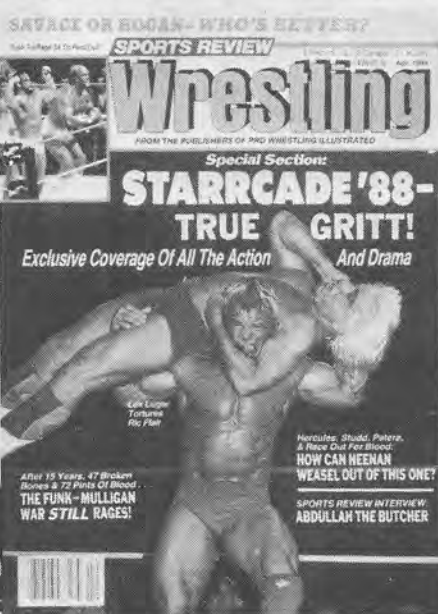
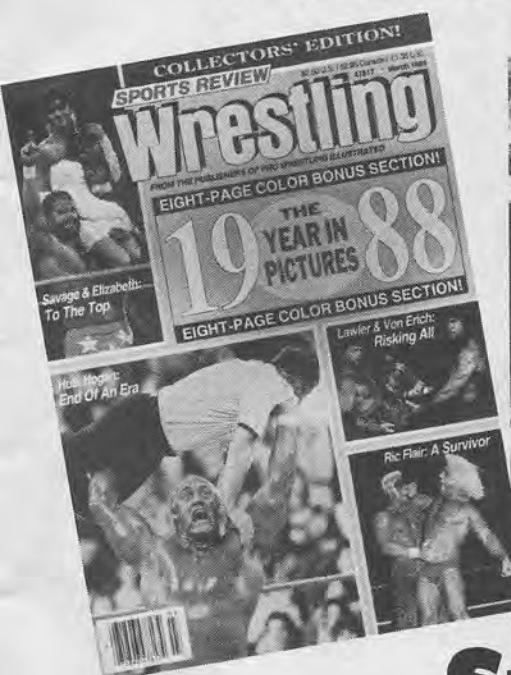
Oh, my. And some people actually think scaffold matches are barbaric?

Anyway, I already had my story on Condrey prepared in my mind: breaks with Rose and Paul E. Dangerously, goes out on his own, wins over the fans, and is a success. Well, that all changed when, in spite of the cries from the fans, Condrey took a \$10,000 payoff from Sylvia for the key to the cuffs. Sylvia set free Brian Lee, Jimmy Golden, Prichard, Terrance M. Garvin, and RPM Mike Davis, who proceeded to brutalize fan favorites Wendell Cooley, Todd Morton, Steve Armstrong, and Nightmare Dan Davis.

Say what you will about the CWF. But never call it boring.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

SOME ATHLETES HAVE the misfortune of achieving their greatest fame in a negative situation.

Ralph Branca will always be remembered for serving up a home run to Bobby Thomson in 1951 in a playoff for the National League pennant.

Bill Buckner will be remembered for miffing Mookie Wilson's groundball in the sixth game of the 1986 World Series.

Even Willie Shoemaker, probably the greatest jockey in history, is best remembered for misjudging the finish of the 1957 Kentucky Derby with Gallant Man.

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka's greatest moment of fame came on June 28, 1982, when he climbed to the top of the steel cage at Madison Square Garden and leaped through the air toward the mat and a prone WWF World champion Bob Backlund. The sight of Snuka airborne was positively breathtaking and made that match memorable.

But Snuka missed.

At the last possible second, Backlund rolled out of the way and Snuka struck canvas. The "Superfly" was paralyzed, and Backlund crawled out of the cage to retain his title. That was the last time Snuka wrestled Backlund for the belt. Some say it was the last time the real Snuka wrestled at all.

"I don't want to talk about it, brother," Snuka said when I saw him last year. Then I saw him recently at a WWF card and he again refused to talk about the match. Some people might say what's done is done and there's no use dwelling on the past. But in Snuka's mind, what's done is so obviously *not* done, and he's

(Continued on page 58)

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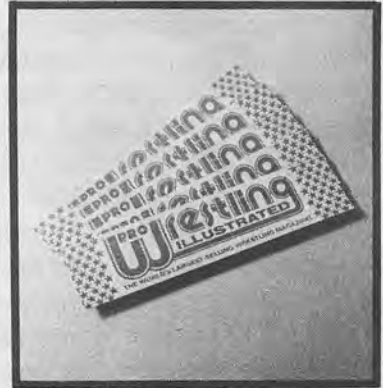
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I'VE JUST FINISHED watching a tape of the NWA's most recent pay-per-view television effort, the July 23 **Great American Bash** card from Baltimore. Some random thoughts, observations, and rhetorical questions:

I wasn't too surprised to see **Dan Spivey** and **Sid Vicious** emerge victorious in the two-ring battle royal, and I wasn't too surprised to see **Teddy Long** refuse to allow them to wrestle each other to a finish (they split the \$50,000 prize), but I *was* surprised to see the look of hatred in Vicious' face.

I think that, deep down, he wanted to wrestle Spivey.

By far the most awesome feat of strength of the evening—and maybe of the decade: **Steve Williams** presses 289-pound **Terry Gordy** over his head *eight times!* Incredible!



Gordon Solie

Bob Caudle is the most underrated announcer in the NWA, and perhaps in all of wrestling. His observations are well-stated and to the point. It's a shame that Caudle, a regular on syndicated NWA programs, isn't used more often on the national scene. **Jim Ross**, by the way, calls a wrestling match like it's a hockey game: He's constantly talking, talking, in an effort to keep up with the action. He's got a lot of good things to say (more than most; his knowl-

edge of NWA history is impressive), but he ought to learn to occasionally let the action speak for itself. Sometimes, Jim, less is more. And speaking of announcers, it was great to see **Gordon Solie** finally get some air time on a national pay-per-view program (yes, this *was* his first ever!).

Some production notes: Thumbs up to Turner Broadcasting for using the tracking shot—you know, that long shot of the ring that kind of moves across the arena from side to side while it simultaneously zooms in or out? Top-drawer stuff. Another thumbs up for stationing a camera-man *inside the cage* for the War Games bout. But a big thumbs down for zooming in too tight on wrestlers too often; when **Brian Pillman** delivers a dropkick from the top rope, why have the camera pull in tight on him? I'd like to see Pillman and the ring in the camera shot, as well as the opponent, so I can get a better perspective on his aerial move. By the way, Pillman's flying bodypress

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

from the the ropes of the second ring into the first ring was incredible.

The **Dynamic Dudes** should have skateboarded down the ramp to the ring. Come on, guys, we know you have it in you!

Scott and **Rick Steiner** continued to prove that they're an awesome team, but they should not have allowed **Missy Hyatt** to remain at ringside during their match against **Kevin Sullivan** and **Mike Rotundo**. Thankfully, Hyatt did not get hurt at the Bash, but that doesn't mean that the possibility

for injury isn't there.

Rick Steamboat should not have caved in to **Lex Luger's** demand to have the no-disqualification stipulation waived in their U.S. title match. And even if Steamboat was willing to wrestle Luger with the DQ rule in effect, the NWA should not have given in to Luger's protestations. Who's in charge here, anyway? Does the NWA dictate the rules to Luger, or does Luger tell the NWA what to do? Seems like Luger has the upper hand, and the NWA ought to be ashamed because of it.

If you saw the November 1989 edition of *The Wrestler*, you probably read the story entitled, "Garvin & Hayes' Diabolical Plot To Dump Terry Gordy!" Some more evidence: **Michael Hayes** and **Jim Garvin** dominated the War Games prematch interview (**Terry Gordy** was relegated to the back of the crowd). And when the team came to the ring, Hayes and Garvin ran to the ring, the **Samoan Swat Team** followed close behind, and Gordy was left bringing up the rear. This is **Freebird** unity?

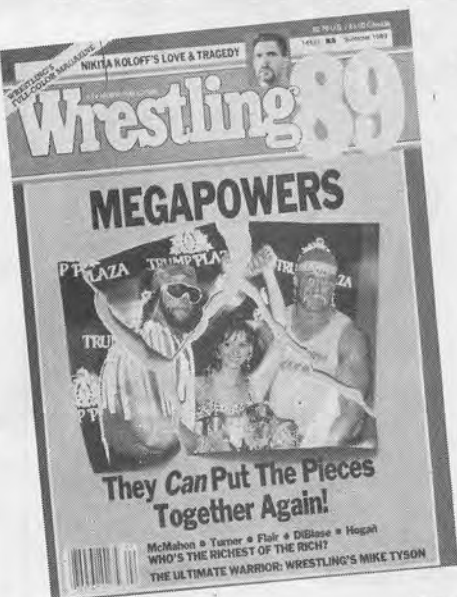
The **Road Warriors** looked like their old selves, from their entrance on Harleys to the way they flew from ring to ring in the War Games bout. Agile, aggressive, and violently determined—these are the Warriors I remember from five years ago, and it's good to see them back.

In his prematch interview, **Ric Flair** sounded like he had serious doubts as to whether he was in shape for his title match with **Terry Funk**. Flair dismissed the need for a tune-up bout, but you could tell that, in the back of his mind, he felt not having one might have been a mistake.

By the way, a little over a year ago, Maryland State Athletic Commissioner **Ray Ianucci** stopped a **Lex Luger-Ric Flair** Great American Bash match in Baltimore due to bleeding on the part of Luger. In the Flair-Funk bout this year, both men bled far worse than Luger did in '88—yet there was no match stoppage! Why? NWA Executive Vice President **Jim Herd** said he asked the Commission to ease up on the blood rule, but there has to be more to the story than that. Rest assured, *Inside Wrestling* is conducting a full investigation of the matter. When we know the answer, you will, too. □

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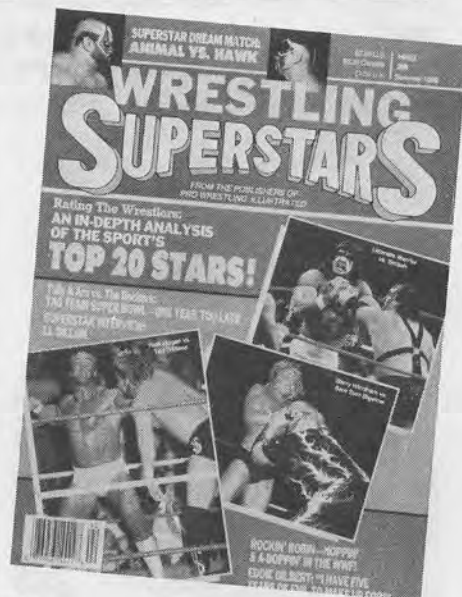
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NAMES MAKING

LEX LUGER WANTS **Ric Flair** again! The U.S. champ has requested a shot at the NWA World champion at the next NWA pay-per-view card, tentatively scheduled for October 29 in Philadelphia, and doesn't seem ready to take "no" for an answer.

"I'm finished with **Rick Steamboat**," Luger said. "And I don't care what Flair said about never wrestling me again. This is a new Lex Luger and



LEX LUGER

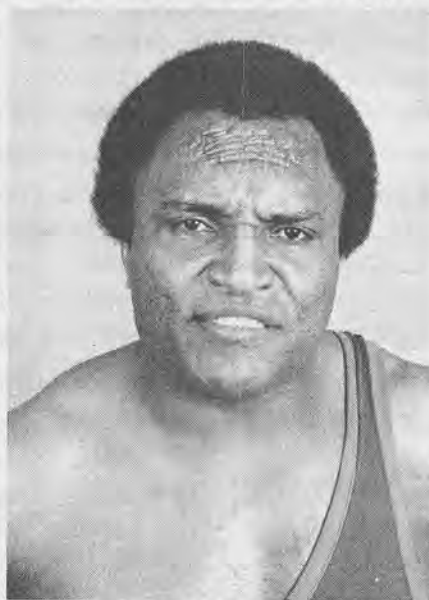
he's an old Ric Flair. I personally guarantee that the result would be a lot different this time."

But Flair looked anything *but* old in his July 23 Great American Bash victory over **Terry Funk** in Baltimore. Flair, who had been sidelined with serious neck and back injuries, managed to overcome a well-prepared and injury-free by reversing a Funk small-package for the pin after 16:25 of grueling action. And even the postmatch attack by Funk and **The Great Muta** (*Sting* came to Flair's rescue and a four-way brawl ensued) couldn't ruin Flair's night of glory. He may not have been

the best Flair, but he was the bravest.

Luger, meanwhile, scored a controversial victory over Steamboat. The match originally had a no-disqualification stipulation, but Luger threatened to not wrestle if the stipulation wasn't removed. After a few minutes of confusion, Steamboat agreed. The match, however, didn't last long. When Luger brought a chair into the ring, Steamboat brilliantly forced the champion to hit *himself* with the chair by slingshotting him into the turnbuckles! Then Steamboat picked up the chair, disposed of the referee, and chased the "Total Package" back to the dressing room. It was an uncharacteristic, but certainly warranted, show of violence by "The Dragon."

Carlos Colon was scheduled to return to the ring on August 6 in a Puerto Rican brawl match. The popular



CARLOS COLON

WWC star injured his left shoulder in a Texas death match against **Steve Strong** in late-May and underwent surgery . . . **Gama Singh**, back from a tour of South Africa, is on the trail of British Commonwealth champion



GAMA SINGH

Chris Benoit . . . **Brett Sawyer** and **Jim Backlund** have joined forces in the FCW and are calling themselves **The Playboys**.

Sources now say that the disqualification rule was waived for **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson's** WWF World tag team title victory over **Demolition**. Ordinarily, a disqualification in any fall of a best-of-three-falls match would make it a non-title match. This decision, however, was not announced to the crowd and was not made known to any of the reporters present. After losing the first fall, Tully and Arn won fall two by disqualification when referee **Joey Marella** ruled that Demolition double-teamed too often. Arn pinned Smash in the third fall.

At press time, most of the WWF talk surrounded SummerSlam '89, the main event of which being a no-holds-barred battle pitting **Hulk Hogan** and

Brutus Beefcake against **Randy Savage** and **Zeus**. But what does the future hold for Hogan, the World champion? A series of Hogan-Zeus singles matches appears inevitable, but Savage isn't likely to fade out of the picture, especially with **Sensational Sherri** egging him on. **Bad News Brown**, who had been humbled by Hogan several times back in 1987, is also hoping for a title shot. But don't ignore **The Ultimate Warrior**. The former Intercontinental champ is frustrated, has a history as a rulebreaker, and wants a shot at the ultimate prize. It could happen!



THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Matman is the new face in the PNW. He's a fan favorite and comes to the ring in a **Batman** outfit to the accompaniment of **Prince's** big hit "Batdance" . . . **Magnificent Mimi** will appear in the Paramount Pictures film *The American Angels* with fellow mat stars **Susan Sexton** and **Black Venus** . . . **Elizabeth** is slated to co-host the WWF's *Wrestling Spotlight* alongside federation chief **Vince McMahon Jr.** . . . McMahon recently appeared on an *Entertainment Tonight*



VINCE McMAHON

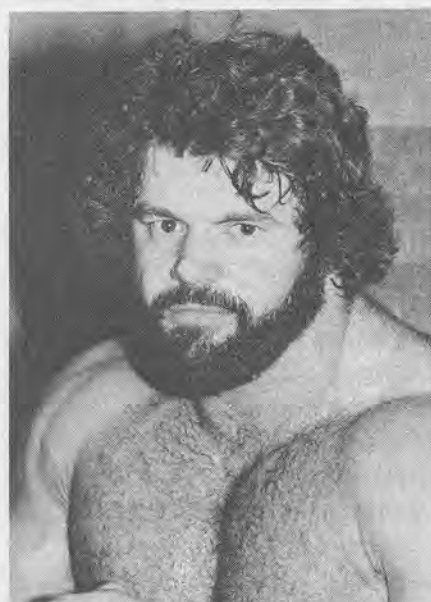
segment about the WWF vs. NWA battle. McMahon discounted the NWA as a competing federation. NWA owner **Ted Turner** was also interviewed.

Owen Hart's return to Stampede is certain to cause a shift of power. **Larry Cameron** currently holds the North American title, but he'll receive a serious threat from Hart, who has been North American champ on several occasions. For now, however, Owen is concentrating on **Dynamite Kid** and **Johnny Smith**—a.k.a. **The British Bruisers**—with whom he brawled his first night back. But you can be sure that a Hart vs. Cameron match will be scheduled as soon as promoters can get both men's signatures on a contract. **Steve Ray**, a youngster from Kansas City, Kansas, has also requested a shot at Cameron.

Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie is the top contender for **Greg Gagne's** AWA TV title. Shouldn't Gagne be after World champion **Larry Zbyszko**? . . .

Scott Norton and **Mike Enos**—a.k.a. **The Destruction Crew**—continue to impress. The top contenders to the AWA World tag team title are ready to take over if **Brad Rheingans** can't return to defend the belt with **Ken Patera** . . . **Jeff Jarrett** and **Rick Morton** are the first-ever CWA Tennessee tag team champs. The CWA also plans to crown Kentucky tag champs and hold Kentucky vs. Tennessee matches.

Four men! Five eyes! What a match! **Carl Styles** has an artificial right eye and no sight in his left eye, thanks to **The Grappler's** mysterious green mist. **Billy Jack Haynes** lost sight in



BILLY JACK HAYNES

his left eye, again due to Grappler's green mist. But the two teamed to defeat Grappler and **Nord the Barbarian** in a most bizarre match in Portland. Styles and Haynes won by disqualification, then used Grappler's green substance to blind him in his left eye.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches (if I can keep the green substance away from my eyes!). □

THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

FAMILY-TYPE THINGS (90th birthday party for Grandma Betty) brought me to Atlanta last week (the party was in New York, but I can't stand my family, so I fled to Atlanta), and an unexpected dinner date with Paul Ellering. The last time I hadn't spoken to Ellering was many long months ago, when we bumped into each other inside a Peachtree Plaza bookstore.

Ellering is a strange mix of traits. His approach to life is humorless and straightforward, owing much to his bodybuilding and business backgrounds. It's a singleminded, numbers-crunching ethos that's made Ellering the most efficient manager—and his Warriors the most economic and expedient killers—in the sport.

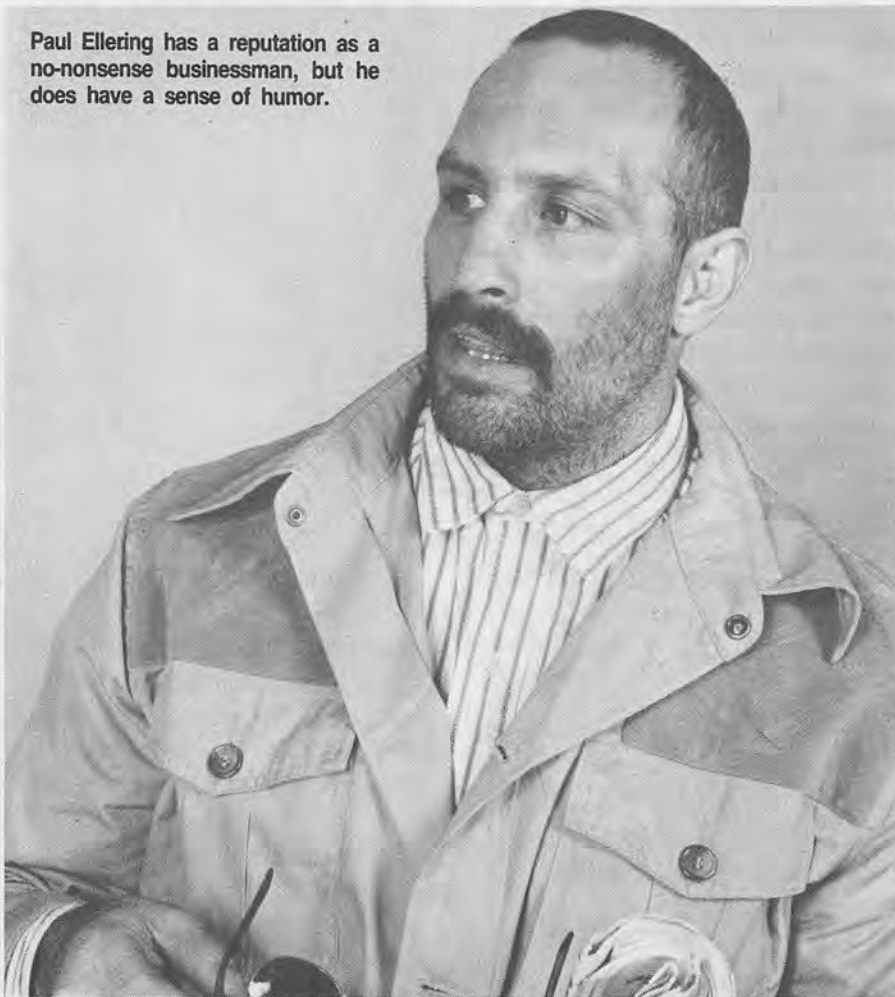
But he is not entirely bereft of social graces and, on occasion, a deadly sense of humor. Witness the following exchange we had with a fan, who insisted on interrupting our dinner after Ellering had signed an autograph for him at the bar.

Fan: "Precious Paul Ellering! Man, I still can't believe it's you. What a treat. Howzit goin'?"

Ellering: "It's going east, toward the door, and you're carrying it."

Fan (ignoring the snub): "Do you think I could get Hawk and

Paul Ellering has a reputation as a no-nonsense businessman, but he does have a sense of humor.



Animal's autograph? You must have a couple on you. C'mon, I'm your biggest fan."

Ellering (suddenly animated): "Why of course you can, pal. You say you're my biggest fan? What's a small invasion of privacy compared to satisfying my biggest fan? But I have a strange request myself. Could I have *your* autograph? I would be so honored if I could have the autograph of my biggest fan."

Ellering removes a sheet of paper from his coat pocket and

hands it to the fan. The man is shaking his head in disbelief.

Fan: "This is just totally amazing. Belinda won't believe this."

Ellering: "Sign right by that X, if you would. I'll treasure this forever."

The fan dutifully complies with Ellering's strange and unexpected request. He returns the paper to the manager and waits, like a thirsty child on line at the water fountain, for his reward.

Ellering's features drop into a
(Continued on page 59)



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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Sherri would love to step into the ring against Elizabeth, but whose side would Randy Savage be on? The "Macho Man" might still be in love with his former manager.

SENSATIONAL SHERRI. Randy Savage. Elizabeth. Hulk Hogan. Brutus Beefcake. Zeus. As the main characters in the WWF soap opera gear up for SummerSlam, it is impossible not to wonder what the women are up to. Is Elizabeth secretly training for a showdown against Sherri? Does Sherri secretly pine for the "Macho Man's" hand in marriage? Is Hogan's own marriage feeling the strains of his association with Elizabeth? Are these really the questions that wrestling fans are burning to know?

Rumors sweeping the WWF suggest Elizabeth may retire from active managing to work full-time alongside Vince McMahon in the broadcast booth. Will this incite Linda McMahon into violent fits of jealousy? Okay, it does get ridiculous, but this is the WWF, where every day is like a Saturday-morning cartoon.

In my opinion, Sensational Sherri is the perfect antidote to Savage's romantic woes. Theirs is clearly a business relationship, unlike the explosive association Savage and Elizabeth had. Martel is a capable bodyguard who, as a woman, enjoys a tremendous advantage, since many of Savage's opponents refuse to strike her despite her continued interference.

Elizabeth was a brilliant strategist whose role was reduced to that of a showpiece—and, ultimately, a love object. In theory, the Savage-Elizabeth alliance began as a business partnership,

(Continued on page 50)

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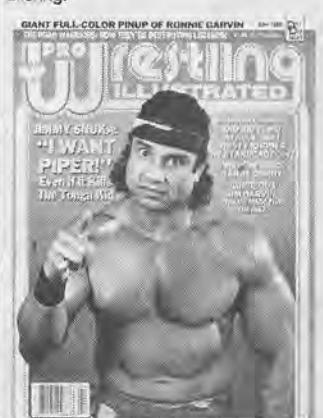
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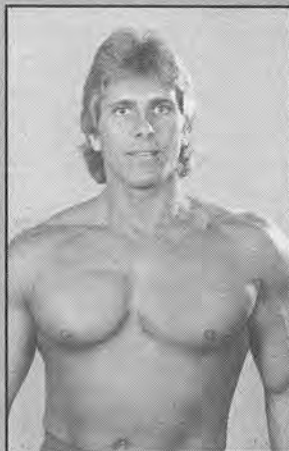
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



LANCE VON ERICH

The man who was also known as "The Fabulous Lance" is now living in South Africa, where he still wrestles on occasion. But Lance's major vocation these days is starring in feature films in his adopted

country. "I seem to be pretty popular with moviegoers here," Lance reported. "Yes, I do miss the United States, and I hope to wrestle there again eventually. Please tell my fans that I miss them greatly."



BULL RAMOS

This huge Apache Indian, whose feuds with Mil Mascaras and Dory and Terry Funk are considered legendary, has returned to the mat sport after a retirement of several years. Ramos has decided to bring his unique brand of savage

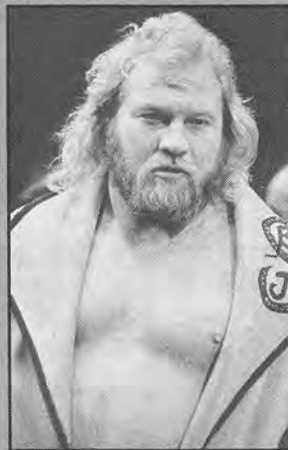
rulebreaking to rings in the Pacific Northwest. "I spent years doing all sorts of odd jobs until I realized that I could still beat the bums who call themselves wrestlers these days," said Ramos.



JIM CROCKETT

The former NWA president is now employed as an adviser to Ted Turner and World Championship Wrestling. Crockett sits in on high-level executive meetings, and is also involved in commercial sales for the NWA's syndicated

TV shows. "There's a lot of growth potential in the NWA and I hope to continue to help the greatest wrestling organization in the world grow and prosper," said Crockett from his offices in Dallas.



JOHN STUDD

Big John shocked his fans by leaving the WWF just as his feud with Andre the Giant was beginning to heat up, but Studd claims that contractual problems forced him out of the federation. The 6'10" giant is now concentrating on selling

fitness equipment and health products, as well as appearing in commercials. "But I haven't forgotten Andre," claims Studd. "Someday I'll catch up with him and retire that freak once and for all!"

INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

BORN IN GLASGOW, Scotland, and raised in Scotland, Australia, and Canada ("I am pure gypsy!") ... Discovered as an amateur in Manitoba, Canada, by former AWA World champion Verne Gagne ... Pro debut took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, when he was only 16 years old; he wrestled Larry Hennig ("I only weighed 167 pounds; Hennig was 173 pounds heavier than me, and he pinned me in 10 seconds!") ... Bulkied up and amassed an impressive record throughout the U.S. ... Became the regular color commentator for *Georgia Championship Wrestling* on Super-Station WTBS, where he was disliked by the fans and almost voted off the show ("Throughout history, the unique people have always been disparaged") ... Later landed the "Piper's Pit" TV segment when he moved to the WWF in early 1984 ... Was voted Most Hated Wrestler of the Year in 1984 and '85, but landed Most Popular Wrestler of the Year in '86 ("The fans are fickle; I sure haven't changed") ... Wrestled Hulk Hogan in the "War to Settle The Score" in February 1985 ... Paul Orndorff came to Piper's aid and Mr. T came to Hogan's aid, leading to their famous WrestleMania I battle ("Where the 'Rowdy Scot' goes, excitement follows") ... In 1986, boxed Mr. T at WrestleMania II ... Piper was

RODDY PIPER

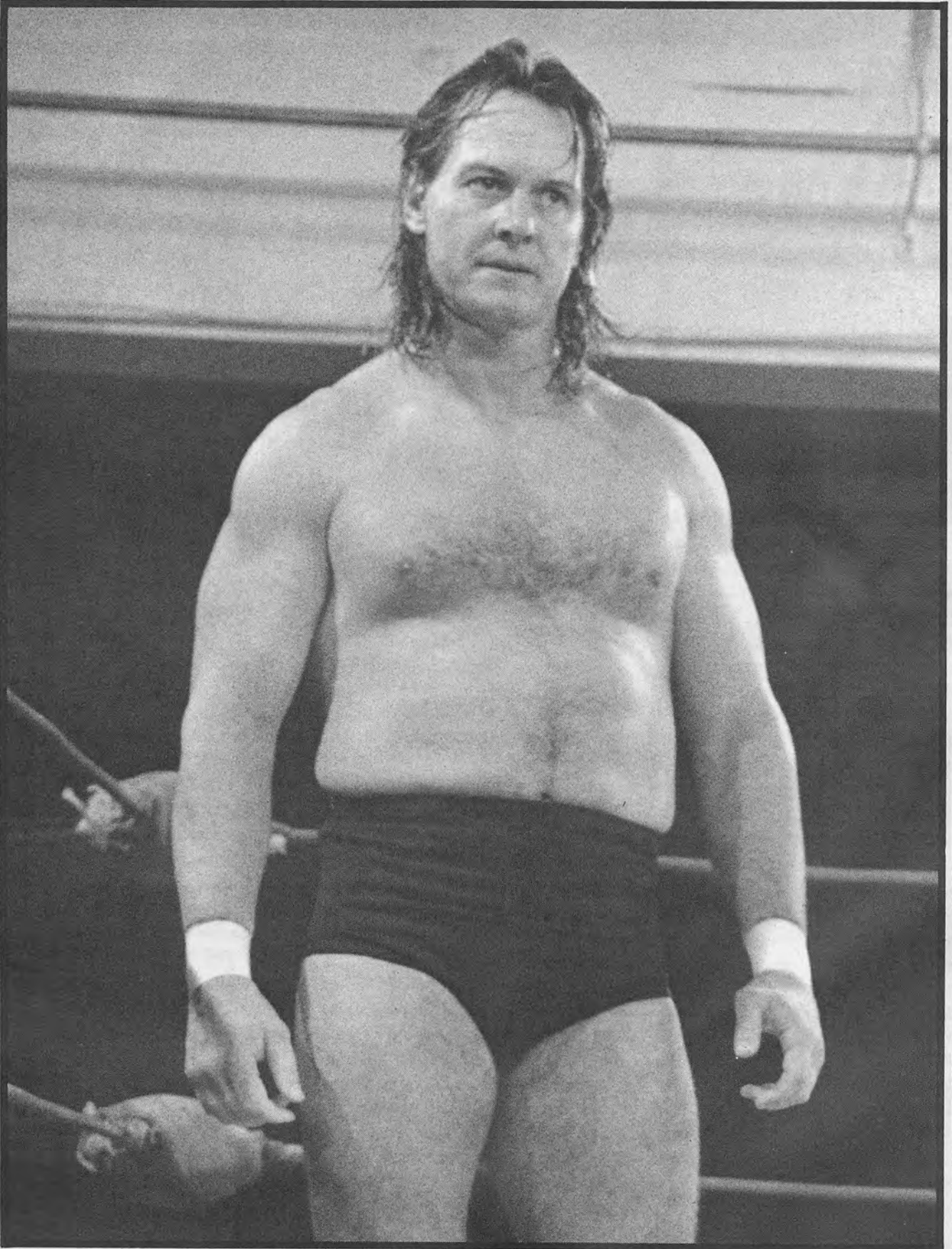


Roddy Piper pounces on Mr. T during their boxing match at WrestleMania II in 1986. The "Rowdy Scot" is back in the WWF as a wrestler and commentator.

disqualified for shoving the referee and bodyslamming T ("Things got out of hand; it was time for that match to end") ... Took some time off to star in the movie *Body Slam* ("A star is born") ... Returned to the WWF in late 1986 and feuded with Adrian Adonis ... Adonis had taken over "Piper's Pit," renamed it "The Flower Shop," and hired Bob Orton away from Piper ("Mess with Piper and you're asking for trouble") ... Became a fan favorite when Adonis, Jimmy Hart, Orton, and Don Muraco attacked him on a "Flower Shop" segment ... Piper later destroyed the set ("They had it coming") ... Retired after defeating Adonis in a hair vs. hair match at WrestleMania III ... Resumed his career in Hollywood and got strong reviews for his starring role in John Carpenter's *They Live* ("There's nothing I can't do") ... Returned to

the WWF at WrestleMania V to host a live "Piper's Pit" with guests Brother Love and Morton Downey Jr. ... Ran off both men, reaffirming his popularity ("Obviously, the fans haven't forgotten") ... Returned to the ring as a substitute for Jake Roberts in May and pinned Ted DiBiase three times in three bouts ... Made his official return on June 30 in Montreal and scored a shocking pinfall victory over Randy Savage ("The hardest part of that match was having to look at Scary Sherri!") ... Recently replaced Bobby Heenan as co-host of *Prime Time Wrestling*, the WWF's weekly two-hour program on USA Network ("When you have a talent like Piper around, you've got to use him") ... Will most likely try to juggle simultaneous careers in the ring and in Hollywood ("Why not do both? Why deprive the people?") □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



RODDY PIPER

BACK ISSUES OF



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September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
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August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
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August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
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March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
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October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
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NIAGARA FALLS, NY

By Jeff Paterson



**DUSTY RHODES
vs.
GREG VALENTINE**

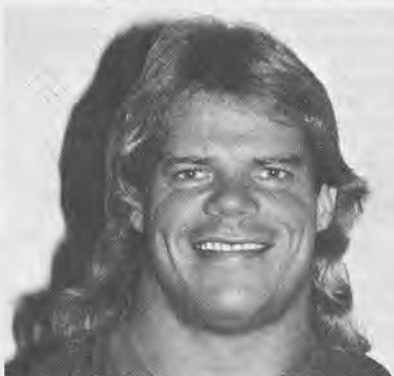


Dusty was on the verge of pinning Valentine when Jimmy Hart climbed up to the ring apron with his megaphone. He was about to clobber Rhodes when new referee Ronnie Garvin stopped him. Garvin and Valentine had been feuding before Garvin retired, so there was some bad blood between them. While the two were arguing, Dusty came from behind "The Hammer" and scored an easy pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Jimmy Snuka pinned Honky Tonk Man ... Brutus Beefcake beat Randy Savage by DQ ... Ultimate Warrior beat Rick Rude by DQ ... The Hart Foundation won by countout over The Powers of Pain ... The Bushwhackers beat Sandy Beach & The Gladiator.

PITTSBURGH, PA

By Dean Grande



**LEX LUGER
vs.
RICK STEAMBOAT**



Luger tossed Steamboat out of the ring, rammed him into the steel railing, hit him with a chair, and bodyslammed him on the concrete floor. Luger tried for the backbreaker, but "The Dragon" reversed it for a two-count. After the action spilled into a second ring (set up for a battle royal later in the card), Luger pinned Steamboat with help from the ropes. Steamboat challenged Luger to continue the match, but the "Total Package" wanted no part of it.

OTHER BOUTS: Sting defeated Scott Steiner to win a two-ring battle royal ... The Road Warriors and The Samoan Swat Team battled to a double-countout ... The Great Muta beat Eddie Gilbert by countout ... Steve Williams, Scott Steiner, & Rick Steiner beat The Fabulous Freebirds.

MADISON, WI

By Tom Taggart



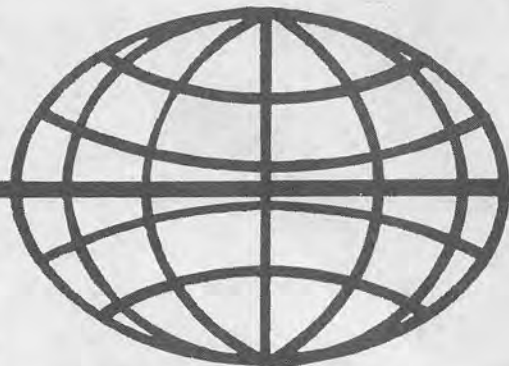
**PAUL DIAMOND
vs.
AKIO SATO**



Diamond was after revenge following his ambush by Sato, Pat Tanaka, and Diamond Dallas Page, and, in a way, he got it. Sato was in control during the early stages of the match using a variety of martial arts moves, including chops and karate kicks. Diamond took control for a few moments, but was hurled out of the ring. Diamond returned to the ring and surprised Sato by reversing a cradle for the pinfall.

OTHER BOUTS: Greg Gagne defeated Larry Zbyszko by DQ ... Ken Patera & Scott Norton defeated Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom ... Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie pinned Derrick Dukes by using the ropes ... Tommy Jammer and Mike George wrestled to a draw.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



FORT BRAGG, NC By Jason Vanning



STING
vs.
BILL IRWIN



Irwin kept Sting at bay with a bullwhip before this TV title match began. When the referee tried to get the whip away from Irwin, Sting charged into the ring and bulldogged Irwin. Both men made pin attempts, and when Irwin spinebusted the champion, the match appeared to be over. Irwin went to the corner to get his whip. But while he was showing it to the crowd, Sting recovered, nailed him with the "Stinger splash," and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Rick Steamboat beat Terry Funk by DQ ... Mike Rotundo & Kevin Sullivan defeated Rick & Scott Steiner ... Norman the Lunatic defeated Mike Justice ... Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin beat The Dynamic Dudes ... The Midnight Express beat The Samoan Swat Team.

ST. PAUL, MN By Eric Jokinen



HULK HOGAN
vs.
RANDY SAVAGE



Savage and Hogan traded advantages several times. Hogan had the advantage near the end and gave Savage the legdrop, but he didn't want the three-count. With the referee was knocked out, Savage hit Hogan with the World belt and elbowsmashed him from the top rope. The referee recovered and made the count, but Hogan kicked out. Sherri held Hogan as Savage prepared for a running elbow. Hogan ducked, Savage hit Sherri, and Hogan rolled up a stunned "Macho Man" for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Jim Brunzell beat Mike Sharpe ... Bad News Brown beat Paul Roma ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig beat Koko B. Ware ... The Barbarian beat Jim Neidhart ... Demolition beat The Twin Towers ... Jimmy Snuka beat The Honky Tonk Man.

KELOWNA, BC By Justin McCartney



LARRY CAMERON
vs.
RICKY RICE



The main event saw Cameron defend his Stampede North American title against Rice. Their feud has escalated since Cameron broke Rice's neck several months ago. Cameron dominated early. After seven minutes of brutal action, Rice nailed Cameron with a clothesline. When Rice mounted the ropes for an elbowdrop, Cameron ducked, threw Rice out of the ring, and piledrived him on the floor. When he went for a second piledriver, Ron Ritchie ran out from the dressing room and hit him from behind, earning Rice a disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Ron Ritchie pinned Goldie Rogers ... Angel of Death won by default when Jason the Terrible failed to show ... Davey Boy Smith & Chris Benoit battled Dynamite Kid & Johnny Smith to a double-DQ.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

By Bill Apter

NEW YORK: Where do I begin? Where does anybody begin to take the place of Matt Brock, a wrestling journalism legend who has covered the sport for a lot longer than I have (and there aren't too many people who can say that.) With a little luck, the tests will work out fine and Matt will be back on the beat next month. For those of you who missed last month's column, Matt checked into a hospital so he could undergo tests to complete his insurance checkup. Right now, I'll just listen to what Matt said when I asked him, "Where do I start?" "Start by buying a plane ticket, Apter," the legend himself snapped back.

WORCESTER, MA: A Matt Brock kind of town. This city has all the markings of a place Brock's been to before (one bar I passed was simply called "Bar"), but I'm sure he got here that time by bus. About 15 years ago, Matt and I were on the road talking shop. One thing I remember Matt saying was, "Apter, time is important. If a place is only a few hundred miles away, take the bus, the train, or just drive. Don't take the plane. By the time you get in and out of the airport, it would've taken as long to drive." Well, Worcester's only about a 3½-hour drive from Manhattan, but when Brock started mouthing off about buying a plane ticket, my brain went out of whack. With delays and all, it ended up taking me five hours to get here. Anyway, the big news from Worcester is that Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, a team I knew and respected in the NWA, won the WWF World tag team title from Demolition. Unfortunately, Tully and Arn didn't pick up many points for style. They lost the first fall when Smash pinned Arn, and won the second fall when Demolition was disqualified for constant double-teaming. That made me smile a bit, because if Tully and Arn have had one trademark over the years, it's been their double-teaming. Nobody does it better (worse?) or more frequently. Now here they were winning a fall in an important match because



ARN ANDERSON & TULLY BLANCHARD

the other team double-teamed once too often. Of course, at that point, the disqualification should have worked *against* Tully and Arn. According to every WWF rulebook I've ever seen, a title cannot change hands in a two-out-of-three-falls match if *any* of the falls is won by DQ. But the sport has had a recent history of ignoring the rules when it suits the moment, and this one was ignored as well. Then, just before the third fall started, Andre the Giant came out to protect Bobby Heenan, who had been manhandled in the second fall. It all ended for Demolition when Andre tossed a chair to Tully, who smashed Smash. Arn covered him for the pin, and history was made. Tully and Arn are the first team ever to win both the NWA and WWF World tag titles, though, in my mind, their victory on July 18, 1989, was as tainted as they come. By the way, after the matches I figured that if I'm going to do Brock's column, I might as well try to get into his personality. So, I took a cab over to "Bar," walked in, and took a table in the corner. This wasn't exactly the

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

kind of place you'd take a first date. The waitress, who must've been pushing 60 and was wearing a fluorescent orange wig, comes up to me and says, "What'll it be, hon?" I said, "Do you have a good bartender?" and when she answered, "Yeah, what of it?" I responded, "Does he know how to make a good Pepsi?" She didn't laugh. In fact, most of the people in this bar looked like they'd never laughed in their lives. Is this what Matt hangs out with? Well, it was a good soda. Plenty of fizz. Made my eyes water.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: A good day for flying, but my plane was two hours late and I didn't have time for breakfast before my scheduled meeting with AWA President Joe Blanchard. It seems as if Joe is already coming under a lot of heat, first for taking the World title away from Sgt. Slaughter after he had apparently won it from Larry Zbyszko, and also for not stripping Ken Patera and Brad Rheingans of the tag belts. Joe, however, impressed me with his response. "I make rulings for the good of the federation," Blanchard told me. "Slaughter knocked out the referee in his match against Zbyszko, and that calls for a disqualification. Rheingans has a serious injury that was caused by the number-one contenders. How can Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom ask me to strip Patera and Rheingans of the belts when they're responsible for their inactivity? To me, that's unfair." And to me, Joe Blanchard came off as a very fair executive.

BALTIMORE, MD: There aren't too many wrestlers who can come off the disabled list after nearly three months, jump into the ring against a guy like Terry Funk, and walk out still holding the NWA World championship. Ric Flair, in fact, might be the only one. I talked to Funk before the match, and he acted like a man who knew he was about to find gold. "Guys at full strength can't beat me, so what's a cripple like Flair gonna do?" Funk cracked. Meanwhile, in the other dressing room, Flair seemed to lack his usual confidence, but once the match started, it was the old Flair all the way. The risk of reinjury was tremendous, but it was something Flair felt he had to do. Yes, Flair proved something to-



TERRY FUNK

night. We always knew about his ability. Now we know about his guts.

NEW YORK, NY: Well, the news could be better. It also could be worse. From what I understand, Matt's cholesterol level is too high and the doctors are ordering him to cut out all fatty foods and cut down on the drinking. "Check out this menu they gave me," Matt complained when I visited him. "Carrot sticks and vanilla yogurt for dinner with a glass of Evian. What the heck is Evian? They're feeding me rabbit food, fer chrissakes!" Anyway, Matt'll be back on the beat next month, but it'll be interesting to see what effect this has on him. As I walked out of his hospital room, I heard Matt screaming, "The hell with Grape Nuts! Nurse, get me some bacon and eggs!" □

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MIL MASCARAS: "AL PEREZ WILL PAY FOR BETRAYING ME!"

By Liz Hunter

Mil Mascaras executes a surfboard on Al Perez. Mascaras feels betrayed by Perez and is taking out his frustrations in the ring.



Photos by Buddy Myers

TO THE UNEDUCATED eye, it was just another match. When Al Perez was disqualified against Mil Mascaras during a recent card in Dallas, the result of the bout came as a surprise to almost no one.

Except Mascaras, that is.

For the legendary Mexican star, the events that took place in the days before that match were a heartbreaking disappointment. Even the fact that he was declared the winner did little to ease the bitterness he was feeling.

"Perez is a man I have always had great respect for," said a frustrated Mascaras afterward. "I have always been impressed by his athletic ability and his vast knowledge of wrestling holds. When he returned to World Class, he convinced me that he would never again become a rulebreaker. But now he has decided to betray me, to give in to the lure of making big money. He may think he is richer now, but he is about

Wrestling legend Mil Mascaras was thrilled when Al Perez returned to World Class to compete in a strictly scientific style. But Perez spurned the veteran superstar's friendship after signing with Gen. Skandor Akbar, and now Mascaras is proving he is not a man to be slighted!

to pay a bigger price for his actions than he has ever paid before."

In the opposite locker room, Perez and his manager, Gen. Skandor Akbar, were ecstatic. Although Perez had lost the match because of Akbar's interference, the "Latin Heartthrob" was proud of the brutality he had displayed.

"It seems like a lot of people around here were beginning to think that I was a nice guy," laughed Perez. "I actually had Mascaras convinced that I was some kind of a friend of his. What an idiot! The only things I care about are green and have pictures of dead Presidents on 'em. All Mascaras seems to care about is pleasing those ignorant fans of his. Well, I say to hell with them, and to hell with him. The only thing I need from now on is Akbar."

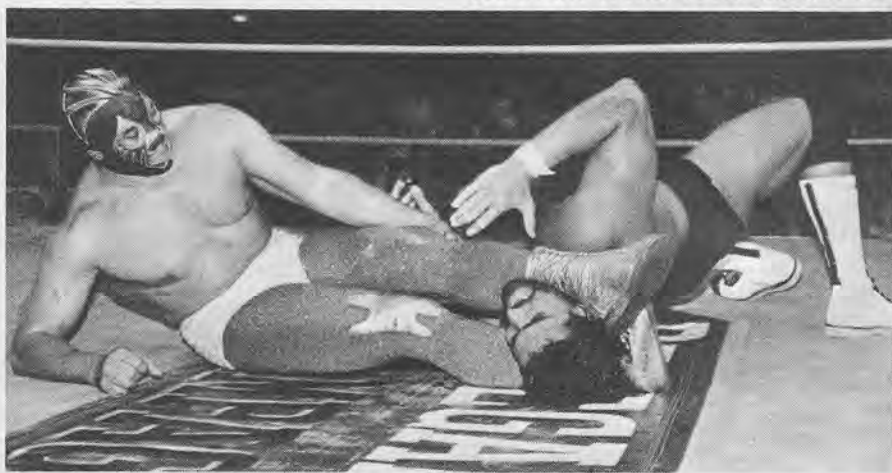
In this modern era of wrestling, men seem to change philosophies whenever the mood strikes them. But to Mascaras, Perez' return to rulebreaking came as a complete shock. Unbeknownst to many, Perez and Mascaras had struck a friendship, and it was a genuine one—at least where Mascaras was concerned.

"When Perez returned to World Class back in May, I was thrilled with what I was seeing," recalled Mascaras. "I always thought he was a fine wrestler, but his rule-breaking tactics always disturbed me. But this time he was wrestling *against* rulebreakers, and the fans took to him immediately. After one of his matches, I approached him and told him that I was proud of his new image. He accepted my hand of friendship, and we began to see a great deal of each other."

Mascaras and Perez soon became inseparable. They started traveling together, and began to engage in workout sessions as well. Perez even asked Mascaras to give him some tips on maneuvers the high-flying superstar had



Mascaras smacks Perez with a flying chop (above) and traps his younger opponent with a legscissors (below). Mascaras had taught Perez a lot of moves, but still had some surprises for him.



been using throughout his career. Mascaras was more than happy to oblige.

"I was showing Perez holds I had never shown anyone ever before," said a disgusted Mascaras. "I was spending hours of my valuable time aiding this man because I was so pleased to see him turn over a new leaf. I saw no reason why I should not trust this man."

"Hey, I was just making the best of a great situation," recalled Perez with a malicious smile. "The damn fool showed me some defensive tactics, counters, and maneuvers I had never even heard of. Hey, I've never said the guy couldn't wrestle. Why not take advantage of his good nature? Besides, I had a feeling those maneuvers would come in handy real soon."

Little did anyone realize *how* soon. During a card on July 6 in Dallas, Perez was being interviewed by TV commentator Marc Lowrance when the conversation was interrupted by Akbar, who came out to ringside and offered Perez a chance to join his stable. The devious manager held a contract in front of Perez' eyes. When the Latin star saw the six-figure sum that Akbar was offering, it was all the persuasion he needed. Once again, the Arab manager's untold millions had lured another promising young wrestler into his fold.

When Mascaras cornered Perez in the locker room later, it was

as if the two had never even met. When the masked star tried to ask Perez why he signed with Akbar, Perez responded by giving Mascaras a backhand slap across the face. The locker rooms emptied as wrestlers attempted to break up the ensuing scuffle.

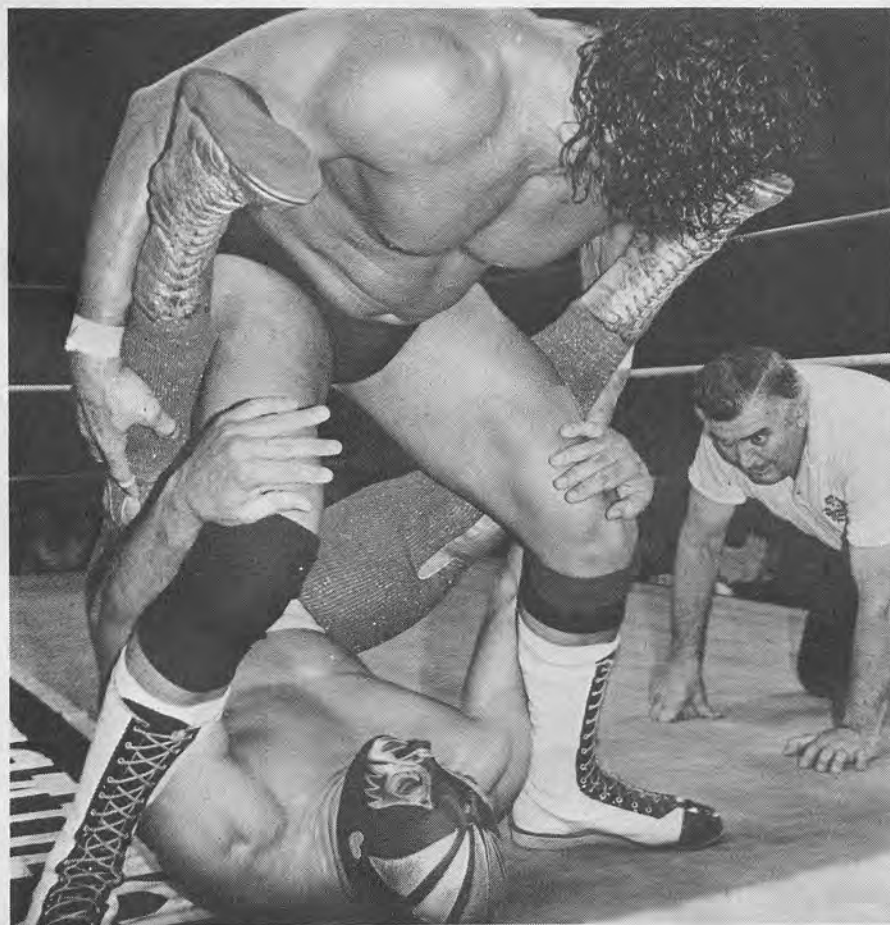
"I don't need you anymore, old man!" screamed Perez as he was being led away. "Akbar's the money man, baby, and what he says goes. And the first thing he wants is for me to get rid of you—and I'll beat you with your own methods!"

Mascaras did not respond. Instead, he just turned and walked back to his locker. When reporters gathered around him and asked him for a response to Perez' unexpected actions, he appeared sullen and withdrawn.

"I have little to say, gentle-



Perez chinlocks Mascaras (above). Mascaras attempts to bring Perez down with a sunset flip (below). Gen. Skandor Akbar interferes to save Perez from being pinned (right). Perez turned against Mascaras after he joined Akbar's stable.



men," said Mascaras, barely raising his voice above a whisper. "You are advised to come back next week, however. I'm asking Frank Dusek for a match against that swine. I'm sure I'll have plenty to say after I'm through with him."

Mascaras' efforts in the match spoke volumes about how he felt about Perez' sudden betrayal. The veteran dominated his younger opponent with many of the same maneuvers that the pair had worked on in private. Frustrated with his inability to gain an advantage after several minutes, Perez called for Akbar to run into the ring, prompting referee Bronco Lubich to disqualify him.



"I've learned a valuable lesson here," said Mascaras afterward. "This is a business where integrity is the rarest commodity of all. I thought I found an honorable man in Perez, but, unfortunately, I was wrong. He has angered me like very few men ever have. He is going to pay—*dearly*—for turning against me."

Perez thought he took advantage of Mascaras, but now he has one of the greatest wrestlers of modern times lusting for his blood. Even Akbar's money might not be able to save him now. □

PAUL E. DANGEROUS

By Bill Apter

JIM CORNETTE WORE powder blue. Paul E. Dangerously wore traditional black. They both wore tuxedos into the ring at the July 23 Great American Bash in Baltimore, almost as if they were attending each other's funeral.

Of course, that was the whole idea.

"I'm obsessed with your demise," Dangerously told Cornette. "I've been living dangerously all my life! I've leaned over the edge of the Empire State Building. I've hired Rob Lowe as babysitter! But win, lose, or draw, when I get through with you, you'll never be able to walk again!"

"I don't care if you try to break my leg, I'll hop," Cornette promised. "I don't care if you break both my legs, I'll crawl. You tried to take my place, but if you wanna do that, you'd better put me six feet under. If there's one time I needed to win a fight, it's tonight!"

The *style* of victory wasn't important to either man. In fact, Dangerously didn't care who won the match, as long as he had the chance to cripple Cornette. "I'm not concerned with winning," Dangerously declared. "I just want to take Cornette out." And, Cornette countered, "I never said I was a wrestler, but I can deal with Dangerously on my worst day."

In reality, their egos were doing most of the talking. Although there are three other managers in the NWA—Paul Ellering, Gary Hart, and Teddy Long—Dangerously and Cornette are the fastest talkers and, thus, have the highest profiles. They are also very much alike: You'd be hard-pressed to tell Dangerously apart from the

(Continued on page 52)

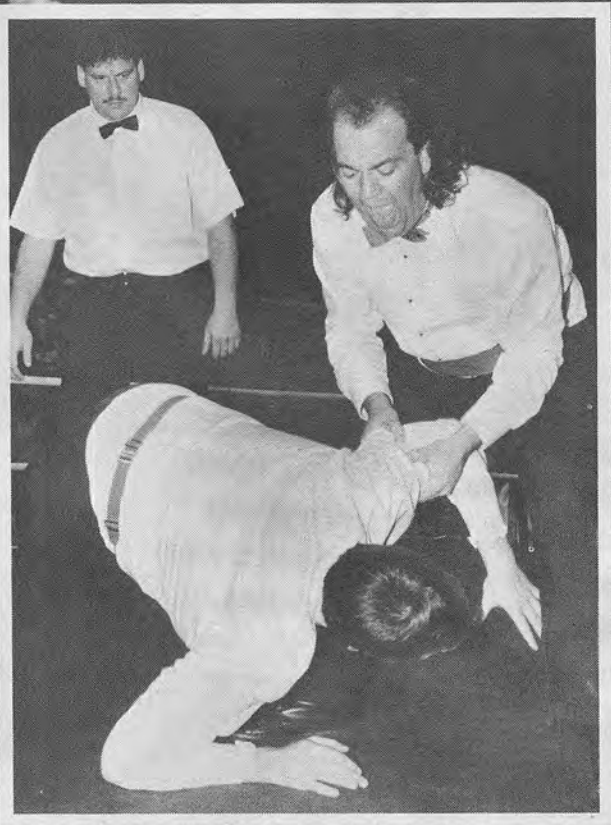


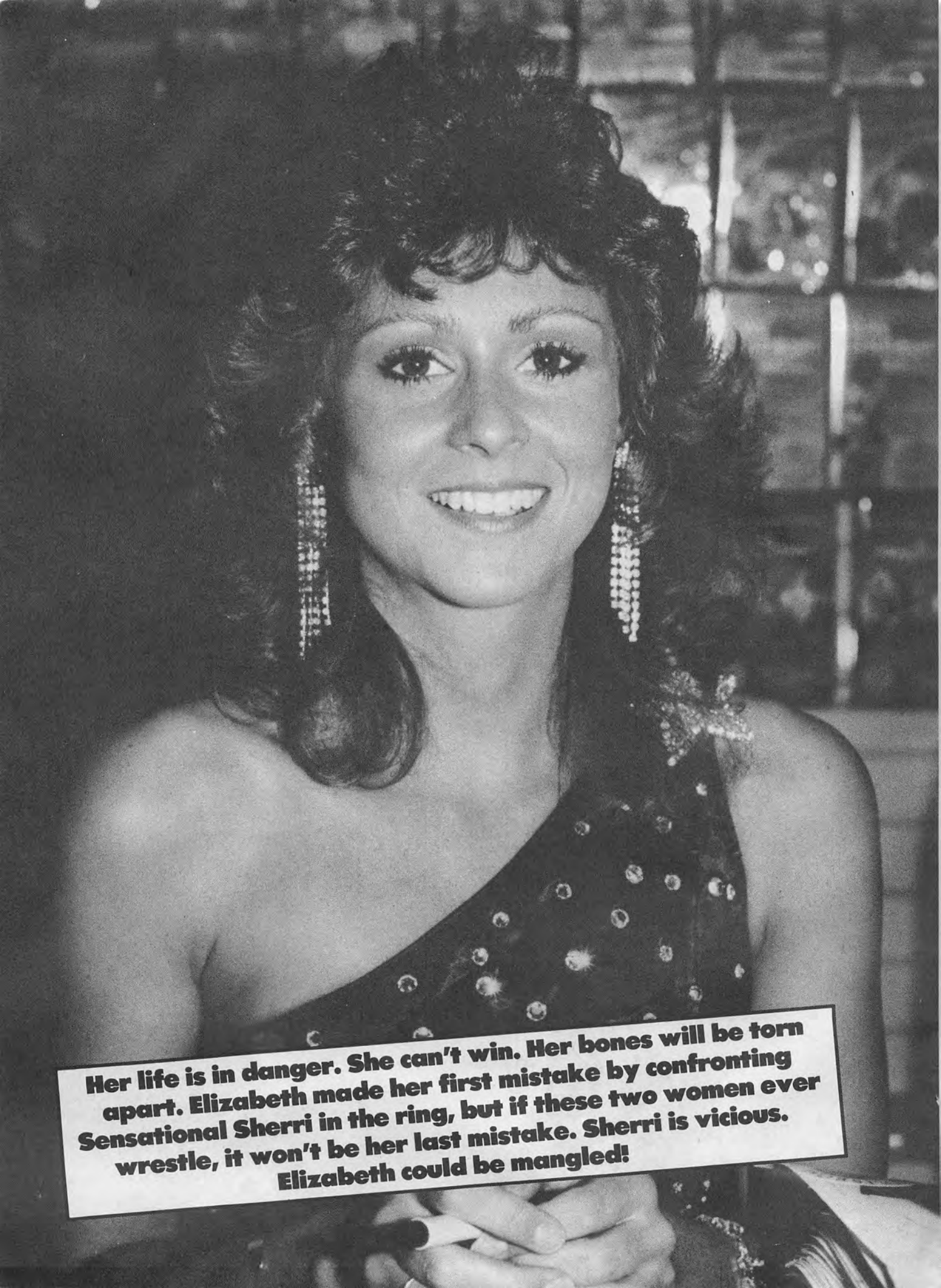
LY vs. JIM CORNETTE

DRESSED TO KILL!

Jim Cornette and Paul E. Dangerously: rival managers, sworn enemies. Paul E. thought he had the key to embarrassing Cornette at the Great American Bash, but Cornette had a game plan tailored for success

Jim Cornette is eager to scrap with Paul E. Dangerously (above). Dangerously has a momentary advantage over his rival (below).





Her life is in danger. She can't win. Her bones will be torn apart. Elizabeth made her first mistake by confronting Sensational Sherri in the ring, but if these two women ever wrestle, it won't be her last mistake. Sherri is vicious. Elizabeth could be mangled!

Imagine This Face Mangled!

PLEASE, ELIZABETH— DON'T WRESTLE SHERRI!

By Bob Smith

IN THIS CORNER: She's the former AWA and WWF women's champion, an accomplished international wrestler who has taken on nearly every top female star in the sport. She once managed Buddy Rose and Doug Somers to the AWA World tag team title and isn't afraid to confront any man—even Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake. Introducing, Sensational Sherri!

In the other corner: She's the former manager of Randy "Macho Man" Savage and an expert in applying makeup and fixing her hair. She once mistakenly stepped on an ant and cried hysterically for days afterward. Her secret weapon is a red, one-piece bathing suit. Here she is, the lovely Elizabeth!

Ding, ding, ding! Let the nightmare begin.

Today, male America is praying for a miracle. Anyone who's ever tuned in to a WWF telecast and set eyes on Elizabeth is hoping against hope that the seemingly inevitable doesn't happen.

They think of her beautiful brown eyes, then imagine one closed shut from swelling and the other black and blue with bruises. They see the lips they'd love to kiss, and imagine them misshapen and puffy. They see one of her high cheekbones broken, the other swollen. Her face is red with scars. She has cauliflower ears.



Surprisingly, Elizabeth gets involved in a match and whacks "Sensational" Sherri Martel with her pocketbook.

Then they imagine her arm in a cast and the other scratched and bleeding. Her ribs are taped up. Her long, shapely legs have been cut, bruised, and battered several times over.

America is in love with Elizabeth. Has been for several years. But America also knows her for what she is: a beautiful, intelligent, and personable young woman who makes the WWF a more pleasant federation.

Elizabeth is *not* a wrestler.

Sensational Sherri is a wrestler, a vicious beast who pays no attention to the rulebook and the laws of decency. She is a trained killing machine. She knows the moves of

the sport. Sensational Sherri is dangerous.

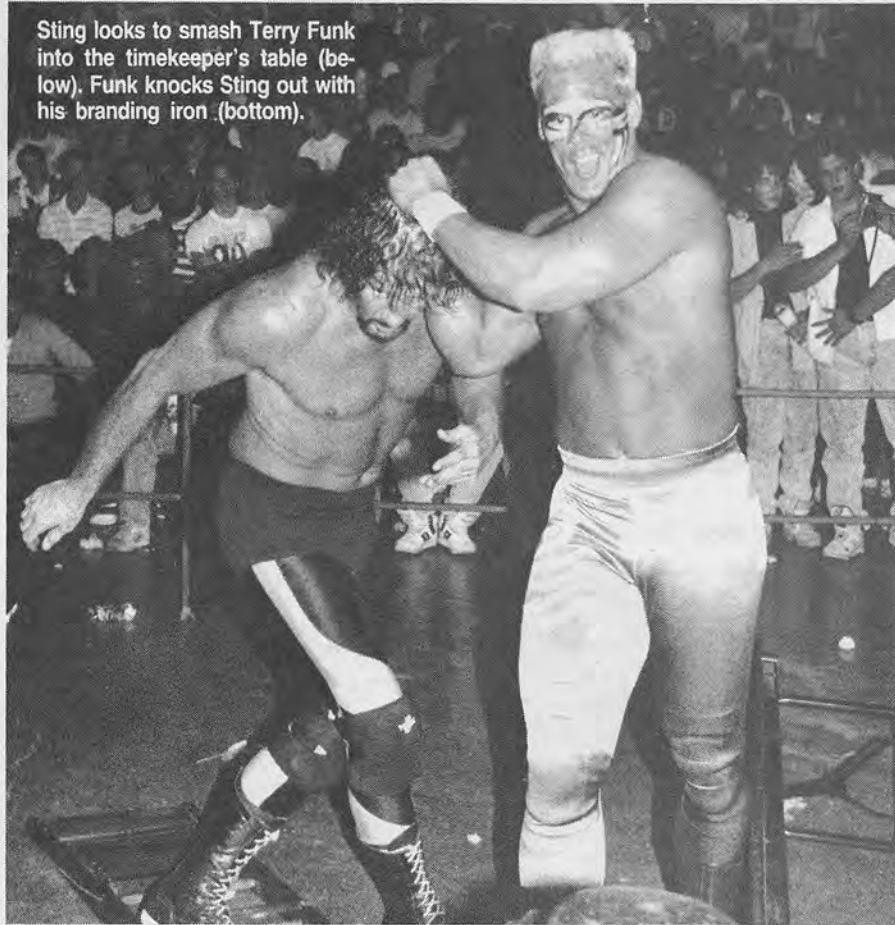
And yet, as male America screams out, "Please, Elizabeth—don't wrestle Sensational Sherri!" there's the overwhelming and sickening feeling that she will.

"I don't have anything good to say about Sherri Martel as a person," former WWF World women's champion Wendi Richter said. "She has no redeeming features, and she really doesn't care who she hurts. You know, when you get right down to it, wrestling is a sport, and the goal is to win. Once you're outside the ring, there's no reason why we have to be animals. But that's Sherri. Of course, as a wrestler, there aren't too many better. She really knows her sport. I've handled her in the past, but it was never easy."

It's never been easy to deal with Sherri. Her rocky road to the top of the profession began back in 1980. Then, as a student of Fabulous Moolah, she was trained by the woman she'd dethrone for the WWF World women's title in mid-1987. One of her career highlights was winning a 12-woman battle royal against the likes of Angel Vachon, Misty Blue, Candy Divine, and Kat LeRoux in 1985 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. (There wasn't a woman in that field that wouldn't have

(Continued on page 54)

Sting looks to smash Terry Funk into the timekeeper's table (below). Funk knocks Sting out with his branding iron (bottom).



THE LOCKER ROOM was strangely quiet, even more so than it would usually be after an injury had occurred. Sting, one of the most popular and respected wrestlers among his peers, was being carted in on a stretcher by several concerned friends. As the physician waved a bottle of smelling salts under his nose, the colorful young wrestler finally regained consciousness.

"What hit me?" he asked, his mind struggling to figure why he was in such pain. "Man, the back of my head feels like it's been hit by a truck. What went down? Did I win the battle royal or what?"

"Sure, you won," said Scott Steiner, one of those assisting him. "But Funk attacked you with his branding iron after the match. He took your winner's check for \$25,000 and ripped it up, too. You must've done something really awful to Funk to get him that mad at you."

STING

Why Is Terry Funk Gunning For This Man?

No one can figure it out. Why is Terry Funk, a grizzled veteran of the sport, dead set on ending the career of Sting, one of wrestling's hot young superstars? Funk's own jealousy may be the reason he's willing to go to any lengths to rub Sting out!

Photos by Ted Field & Bob Smith



"What do you mean?" asked Sting incredulously. "I've never done anything to that guy! First, he insulted me on a bunch of TV interviews. Then he attacks me for no reason at all. He wasn't even *in* the battle royal! What the hell is going on around here?"

Indeed, Terry Funk's ruthlessly dogged pursuit of Sting is one of the most surprising stories of the past several months. When Funk brutalized Sting in that postmatch attack, it displayed for the entire world the jealousy and hatred that the former NWA World champion harbors toward the young superstar. It was eerily similar to the attack Funk made on an unsuspecting Ric Flair after the "Nature Boy" regained the World title May 7 in Nashville, Tennessee.

"If there's anything that makes me puke, it's a punk who's gettin' too big for his britches," bellowed Funk in his usual manic style.

(Continued on page 56)

Funk drags Sting around the ring. Funk's feud with Ric Flair has led to brutal matches against the "Stinger."



HOTSEAT

LEX LUGER

"MY MIND IS NOW AS PERFECT AS MY BODY"

NOW MORE THAN ever, Lex Luger is a man to make female fans swoon and men blush with envy. Standing 6'5" and weighing a perfectly proportioned 268 pounds, Luger is the living embodiment of the perfect physical specimen. It is the kind of look that can't help but make people sit up and take notice.

But the same fans who used to cheer the very mention of his name are now openly rooting for his demise. Luger is among the most hated men in the sport—and, judging from his recent actions, he wouldn't have it any other way. All he cares about is blazing a path to the NWA World championship.

In fact, Luger has become even more brutal than he was when he was a member of The Four Horsemen, the NWA's premier rulebreaking organization, back in 1987. Luger's shocking change of heart began when he blindsided Rick Steamboat, a man he had previously been friends with, after Steamboat's match against Terry Funk at Clash of the Champions VII.

Since then, Luger has engaged in several matches with "The Dragon," but those looking for scientific bouts should look elsewhere. Luger has horrified his former fans by trying to cripple Steamboat every time he gets the chance. Often, he has openly cheated

his way to victory—or disqualification—thus enabling him to keep a firm hold on his U.S. title.

Assistant Editor Bob Smith was in Chicago to speak with the "new" Luger about his future as a full-fledged rulebreaker.

Q: Well, Lex, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you again, but I certainly wish it was under better circumstances. I've seen

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There are a lot of people who wish they could have a magnificent, perfectly proportioned body like mine. Mr. Steamboat, for one.

”

wrestlers undergo personality changes before, but I don't think I've ever seen anyone change so completely in such a short period of time.

A: Right off the bat, I've got to tell you I'm totally disgusted. Man, I shouldn't even be talking to a guy like you.

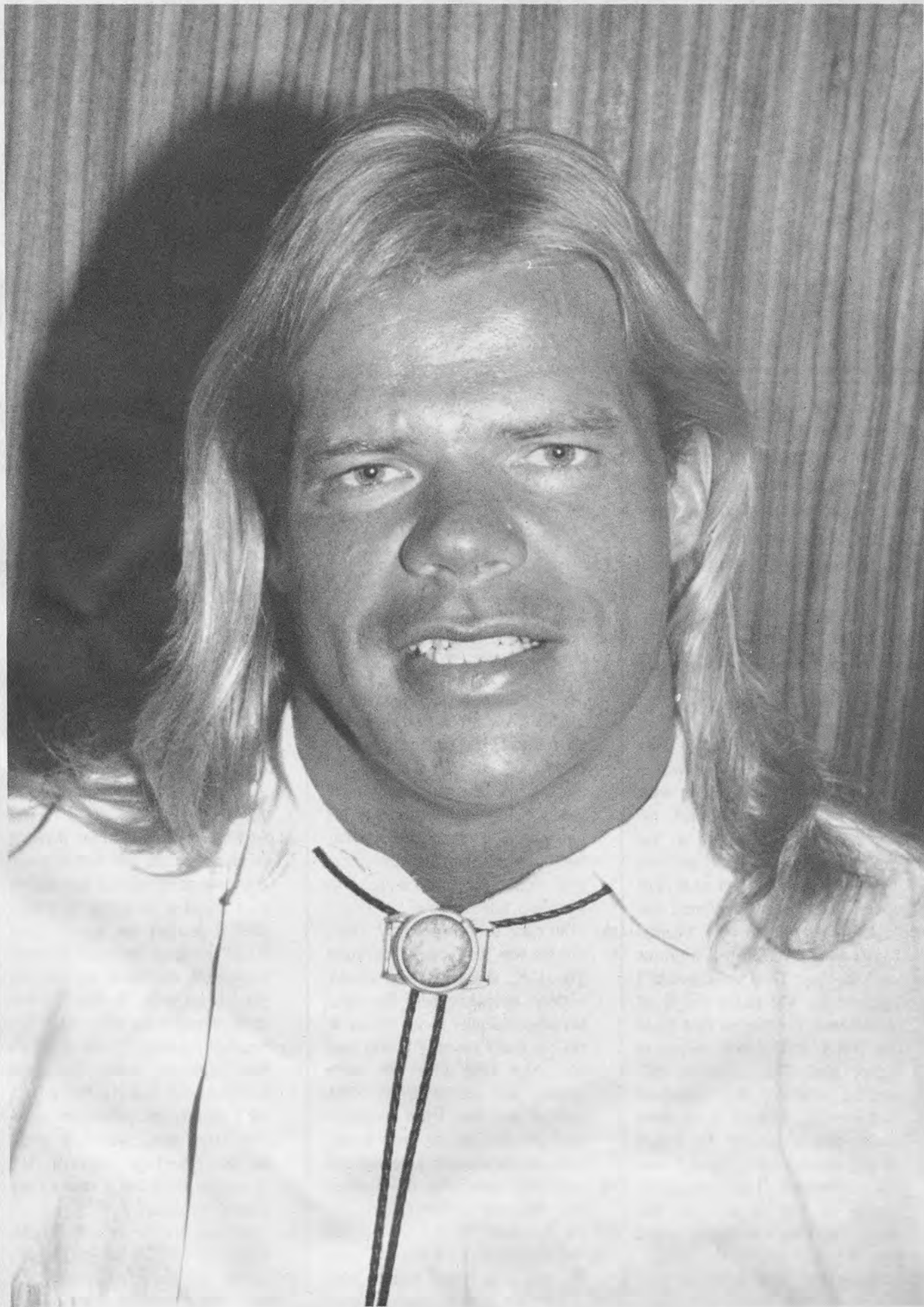
Q: Why? What's wrong?

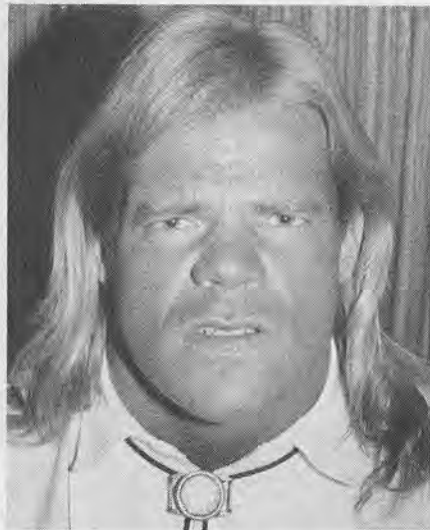
A: First, you hit me with a condescending statement. Then I take one look at you and I just want to throw up. What's that stuff hanging over your belt buckle, man? What a slob! I swear, the people who work for your magazine are the most slovenly, out-of-shape bunch I've ever seen in my life. If they aren't sending a porker like you out to hound me, then it's a baldy like Apter, or a twig like Rodriguez, or . . .

Q: That will be quite enough of that, thank you. You have to remember that we're reporters, not athletes. Not everyone can have a physique like yours.

A: I can't argue with you there. There are a lot of people who wish they could have a magnificent, perfectly proportioned body like mine. Mr. Steamboat, for one, is insanely jealous of me. To think, there's a guy who owns a professional gymnasium, and his physique can't even come close to mine. It's ridiculous.

Q: A lot of people would say that your reversion to rulebreaking is ridiculous, too. After all, you were the U.S. champion before you turned against Steamboat. What good has all this brutality done?





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Steamboat was never the kind of guy I could trust. He was just one of those who insisted on riding my incredible coattails.

”

What's gone wrong with your mind?

A: There's nothing at all wrong with my mind, pal. I've never had a clearer idea of who I am or what my future goals are. In fact, my mind is now as perfect as my body. It was just a matter of coming to my senses. If you recall, just a few months ago my future was looking pretty bleak. First, Michael Hayes stole my U.S. belt from me back in May. Then, even though I regained the title just a couple of weeks later, the powers that be in the NWA had already begun to ignore me. They were actually ranking pretenders like Steamboat and Terry Funk ahead of me when determining contenders for Flair's World championship. Here I was, the undisputed U.S. champion, having to wait in line for title shots. Everyone was making a fool out of me.

Q: But you also have to realize that, as the former champion, Steam-



Lex Luger and Rick Steamboat battle for Luger's U.S. title. Luger says he was getting nowhere when he and "The Dragon" were friends, so he turned against Steamboat and became a rulebreaker once again.

boat deserves a chance to regain his title. And when Funk attacked Flair after Flair regained the title on May 7, you'd have to figure that Flair would naturally want to get his hands on the man who put him out of action for more than two months. Shouldn't those factors enter into the decision about who gets title matches?

A: Who cares about that crap? That's not the way it's supposed to work! The U.S. champion has always, without *exception*, been the number-one contender to the World title—or that's the way it was until Mr. Nice Guy Luger let every wrestler and official in the NWA walk all over him. I just decided to take matters into my own hands. Just ask Steamboat if he has any questions about who the number-one contender is now. *Ha!*

Q: He *is* impressed, but not in the way you think. He's shocked about the way you turned against him, and it's much more than the physi-

cal scars that are bothering him. He's saddened that you would turn against a friend the way you did. He even said that you two were thinking of forming a tag team at one point.

A: So what? Was Steamboat thinking of me when the NWA championship committee ranked him higher than me as a contender to Flair's title? If you ask me, a real friend would've never let that happen. Steamboat was never the kind of guy I could trust. He was just one of those who insisted on riding my incredible coattails. Look at what's been happening lately. I've given him plenty of opportunities to win my U.S. title, but he's failed miserably every time. But how could anyone expect a has-been like Steamboat to defeat a man of my natural greatness?

Q: How can you be proud of your tactics, though? In several matches during the Great American Bash tour, you utilized the ropes to score

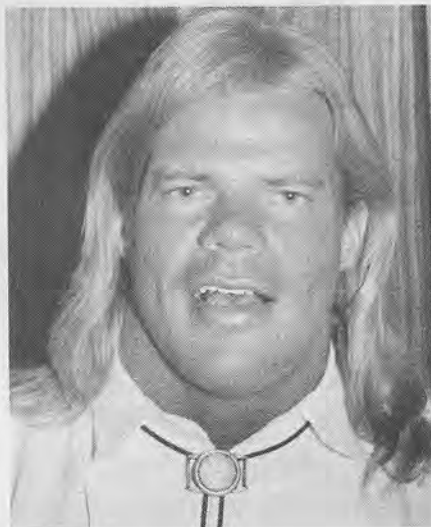
illegal pinfalls. And during the Baltimore Bash on July 23, you wouldn't allow Steamboat to take you on in a no-disqualification match—which seems strange, since you tried to kayo him with a chair when the action got heavy.

A: Hey, any tactics I use against that guy are *more* than appropriate. Who is Steamboat to dictate match terms to the U.S. champion? No one has the right to do that! As reigning titleholder, I should have the final say as to how I make my title defenses. And as for any tactics I use in defending my title, well, let's just say that I learned from experience. Hayes cheated to beat me for my U.S. belt, but there wasn't really any sense of public outrage when he did it. It was like, "Oh, that's Michael Hayes, he always does stuff like that." And they let him get away with it! What the hell was I doing trying to follow a rulebook that nobody takes seriously anymore? Why was I letting everyone get the better of me, a guy who's been the greatest wrestler in the world for years now?

Q: That's a claim you're going to have to earn, Lex. The only way to do that is to defeat Ric Flair.

The "Total Package" clotheslines Ric Flair (above). As U.S. champion, Luger is demanding another series of World title bouts with Flair. Luger brings a chair into the ring to use on Steamboat (below).

A: For once, I agree with you. I *do* have to defeat Flair. And I don't think there's a man, woman, or child in this country who thinks I can't do it. Even you, Smith, have to remember the summer of 1988, when I came within millimeters of beating Flair so many times it wasn't even funny. But it seemed like every time I wrestled him, he'd use some kind of legal loophole to squeak away with a victory. You know, I've been absorbing all that information on how to cheat, win, and not get caught. Match that up with my unparalleled power and agility, and that makes the "Total Package" much more dangerous than he's ever been before. And Flair is gonna be the one to find



“

Friends don't count, and the fans mean even less. All that matters is that I win the World title.

”

out just how dangerous I've become.

Q: How about Sting, who even you would have to admit was your best friend in the sport? Do you have any designs on his TV title that's now held up?

A: Not really. The TV championship is the NWA's tertiary singles title. That's for guys who aren't good enough or smart enough to make it all the way to the top of the heap. Next question.

Q: I can't believe I'm hearing you talk like this. Don't you have any remorse about turning your back on your friends—and your fans? What an ego!

A: You obviously have no clue as to what's *really* important. Friends don't count, and the fans mean even less. I have no regrets. All I have is ambition. All that matters is that I win the World title. I don't care what I have to do, or who I have to step on to get it, either. I just want the gold! ☐



JAKE ROBERTS FACES JAIL TERM

By Dave Rosenbaum

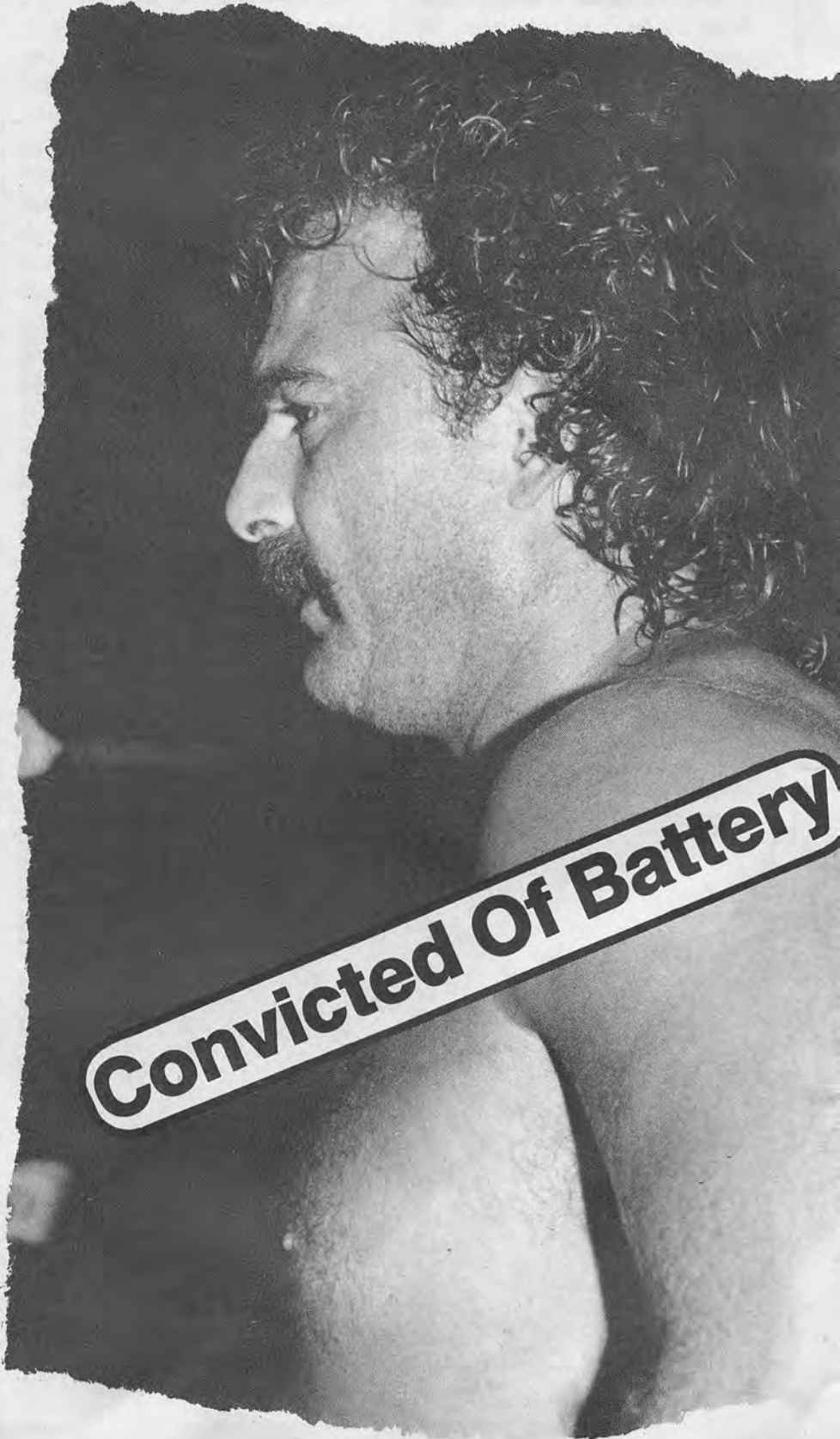
JAKE ROBERTS WAKES up in the morning and wonders how he got himself into such a mess, and how an otherwise ordinary night could have changed his life so.

John Bartlett wakes up in the morning, looks in the mirror, and doesn't see the same face he saw last December. His cheekbone was broken in four places and one side of his face is still puffy. He is bothered by bright sunlight. He is unemployed.

Nothing good happened when Roberts, the popular WWF star, and Bartlett, an ex-Marine, met on December 6, 1988, at the Sugar Shack, a bar in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"That could've been a memorable night," Bartlett, 27, said in an exclusive interview with *Inside Wrestling*. "It could've been something I'd one day tell my children about. 'Hey, I went out once with Jake 'The Snake' Roberts.'"

Instead, he wound up in an altercation with Roberts, who now faces a prison term of up to 15 years (sentencing guidelines call for a term of 12-30 months for individuals, such as Roberts, with no prior record) after being convicted of aggravated battery on July 5 by a six-person Florida Circuit Court jury. Bartlett claimed that Roberts beat him up at approximately 4:00 a.m. on December 6 after the two got into an argument in Roberts' car. The trial lasted one day, including approximately two hours of jury deliberations.



Convicted Of Battery

At press time, Roberts, 34, was free on \$10,000 cash bond and awaiting sentencing on August 14. Circuit Judge Gayle Graziano revoked the original \$2,500 bail following the conviction and Roberts spent six days in the Volusia County Jail in Daytona.

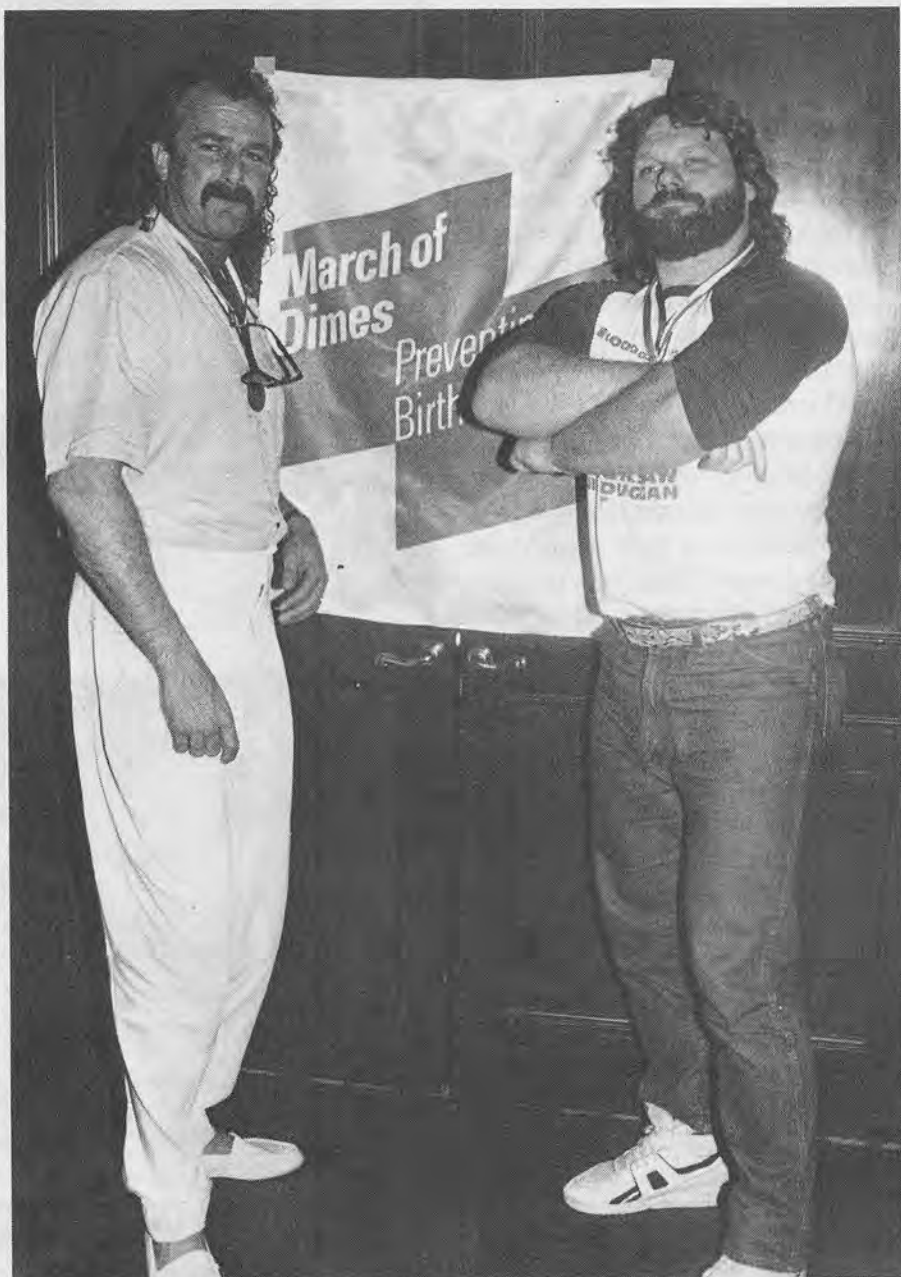
Roberts hired a new lawyer after the trial and has filed for a retrial based on incompetent representation.

If he goes to sentencing, Roberts hopes that his extensive community service will help his case. He has worked with several charities, including the Boys Club, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy, Safe House, and several anti-drug campaigns.

Bartlett, however, feels that Roberts is anything but charitable. "At first, I thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread," Bartlett said. "I've learned not to take people for what they appear to be."

Bartlett and Roberts had never met prior to December 6. Roberts arrived at the Sugar Shack at approximately 2:00 a.m. after wrestling the previous evening in Ft. Meyers. Prior to Roberts' arrival, Bartlett (who said he isn't a wrestling fan) had spoken with Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, Brother Love, Marty Jannetty, and Shawn Michaels. Roberts and Bartlett met and made plans to go out after the bar closed. They stopped at Bartlett's home to pick up beer, then went to an all-night club before Roberts drove Bartlett back home.

Jake "The Snake" Roberts, the popular WWF star, now finds his career in danger after being convicted of aggravated battery in Daytona, Florida. He could spend up to 15 years in jail



Because Jake Roberts (with Hacksaw Duggan) has worked with several charities, he's hoping he'll receive a more lenient sentence following his conviction on battery charges.

According to Bartlett's account, Roberts was belittling Daytona's nightlife and women. When Bartlett disputed Roberts' statements, Roberts said, "I oughta stop the car and beat your butt." Roberts stopped the car, walked around to

the passenger side of the car, and pulled out Bartlett.

"I never got to even throw a punch until I was falling backwards," Bartlett said. "Then I just took off. I thought he was going to come after me."

Bartlett suffered a broken cheekbone in four places and a fractured eye cup. He twice underwent surgery and claims he has since had all of his sinuses removed. At the time of the incident, Bartlett didn't realize the severity of his injuries and phoned his roommate for a ride home. He reported to his technician job at General Electric the following morning.

"I was in a lot of pain and my co-workers said I better go to the doctor," said Bartlett, who went to the police at 7:00 p.m. that evening. Roberts was arrested by the Volusia County Sheriffs' Department upon his return on May 8, after wrestling on a card in Orlando, Florida.

Bartlett said that both men had been drinking and claimed that Roberts, who is married and has four children, two from a previous marriage, was using him to pick up women. "I guess he figured I was from the area and knew people," Bartlett said. The defense claimed that Bartlett was drunk and using Roberts' notoriety to meet women.

Roberts testified that Bartlett bragged about his physical prowess and claimed that he could beat him in a fight. When Bartlett started getting physical, Roberts stopped the car and walked around to the passenger side. Bartlett took another swing and Roberts responded by pushing him away. Roberts, who is 6'5", 249 pounds, denies ever hitting Bartlett, who is 5'7", 160 pounds. He claims to be unaware of how Bartlett suffered his injuries.

And he is bitter that an act of poor judgment could ruin his life. Roberts can't understand how a person who has done so much charitable work could end up in jail for one mistake. He also feels that his lawyer did not properly prepare him for the case.

He's had other problems, too. Roberts, a 14-year ring veteran, un-



Roberts bites Rick Rude's hand (top). Jake is a guest on the *DJ Kat Show* (above). Aside from his legal troubles, Roberts has been out of action due to a serious back injury.

derwent surgery on May 28 to remove a ruptured disc and has been out of action since May 10. The injury was suffered during a match.

Bartlett, originally from Boston, says the only good that's come out of the situation is that Roberts was

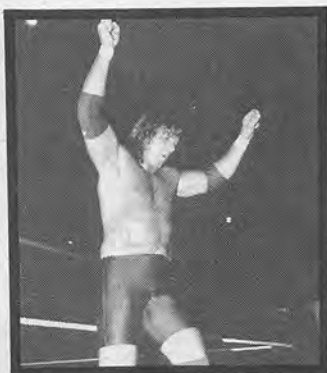
found guilty. He contends that the publicity surrounding the case—it was covered by several newspapers, as well as TV and radio stations—led to him losing his job at General Electric.

A civil suit against Roberts is pending. □

THIS MONTH IN...



THE Wrestler



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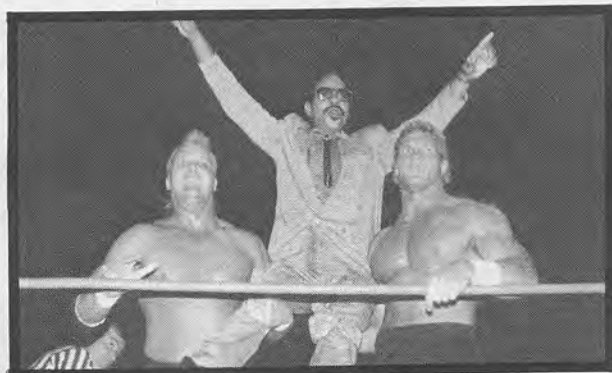
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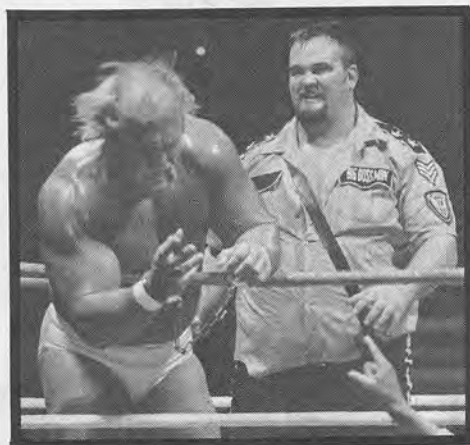
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ON SALE SEPTEMBER 19

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"Tell me, buddy, when are you gonna have the guts to get in that ring and wrestle? Then we can settle things once and for all."

—Eric Embry

THE MOST FAMOUS feuds in World Class history have involved the Von Erich family. But over the past year, Eric Embry has taken center stage as the fans' favorite in one of the most important World Class wars ever.

To tell the entire tale of Embry's feud with Gen. Skandor Akbar would take several pages, so let's deal only with a few horrifying highlights:

- It started last year when Embry refused Akbar's offer to join his army. In one memorable incident, Embry took on Akbar's entire stable and declared his independence from the General.

- The feud heated up after Embry lost a loser-leaves-town match to Gary Young, managed by Akbar. Embry was allowed to honor his remaining match commitments, and was then allowed to stay when World Class official Frank Dusek was deluged with thousands of fan petitions. Akbar was enraged.

- Recently, it was revealed that Tojo Yamamoto owned stock amounting to controlling interest in World Class. Embry bought the stock from Yamamoto, then tried to sell it to former WCCW official Max Andrews. When Akbar and Yamamoto started a bidding war for the stock, Andrews and the United States Wrestling Alliance fought to hold them off. The deadlock was to be broken by a match between Embry and P.Y. Chu-Hi. If

Embry wins, Andrews and the U.S. Wrestling Association will own World Class; if Chu-Hi wins, controlling interest will go to Akbar and Yamamoto.

But now there's a new twist. Embry's leg was seriously injured in an attack by Akbar, Chu-Hi, and Cpl. Braddock. Embry was given 21 days to return and wrestle Chu-Hi, or the stock would go to Akbar and Yamamoto.

With all this in mind, Akbar and Embry were more than happy to come together . . . "One on One."

GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR:

Listen up, you little masochistic maggot, how much of a pound-ing do me and my men have to give you before you finally dry up and blow away?

ERIC EMBRY:

I'm not going anywhere, you camel-faced towelhead, until you and your men are out of World Class. I've sacrificed a lot to get rid of you, and I'm not stopping until the job is done.

SA: The job to be done is the breaking of every bone in your body, and it's a job I'll relish doing slowly. How's your leg, by the way? *Hahaha!*

EE: Unfortunately for you, Akbar, my leg is coming along just fine, although there's nothing that would keep me out of the ring as long as there's a chance that you're going to own this federation. I owe it to the fans who've supported me through all this, and I owe it to the great history of World Class wrestling. I'd

V ONE



"Listen up, you little masochistic maggot, how much of a pounding do me and my men have to give you before you finally dry up and blow away?"

—Gen. Skandor Akbar

take on any of your men even if I only had *one* leg. That's the kind of guts you just never heard of.

SA: It's the kind of guts you'll have to get used to, punk: wrestling injured. Yes, there *is* a chance I'll own World Class. A very good chance. And when that happens, I'll finally have realized the dream of the decade. And you, you little slug, your pathetic career will be over.

EE: That's exactly the point, Akbar, and that's what separates me from you. When I had control of World Class, I was unbiased. I allowed you and your men to go on wrestling. Maybe that was my biggest mistake, but I went by the rules, even though you deserved to have your butt

banned. I do my damage in the ring. You, Braddock, and Chu-Hi are gonna learn your lesson the hard way.

SA: And what lesson is that? There isn't a lesson in the sport you can teach me, you snot-nosed chump. I forgot more about wrestling than you'll ever know—and I've got a superb memory.

EE: So let's hear it, Akbar, what the heck have you ever done? What exactly has been your contribution to wrestling? What world champions have you ever managed? Where are these vast riches you speak of? Face it, without Yamamoto, you ain't got a dime.

SA: I've managed plenty of champions, Embry. World Class champions, UWF champions, singles

champions, tag team champions—here's one example. Remember the UWF? On November 11, 1986, my men captured the UWF singles *and* tag team belts. *In one day*. And that's just one instance out of dozens. As for money, I have plenty of it, and where I maintain my funds is none of your damn business. Speaking of championships, how many belts have *you* held over the past five years? I can count 'em all on one hand and still have enough fingers left to . . .

EE: Stick 'em up . . .

SA: Watch it, Embry, or else . . .

EE: Or else what, Akbar? Or else you'll get one of your men to do your dirty work for you? Tell me, buddy, when are you gonna have the guts to get in that ring and wrestle? Then we can settle things once and for all.

SA: Does the President of the United States take out the trash? Come to think of it, maybe he does, but I don't. I don't see the need to dirty my hands with trash like you.

EE: Don't give me that double talk, Akbar. The truth is that you ain't got the guts . . .

SA: I ain't got the guts? *I* ain't got the guts?

EE: That's right, Akbar, you ain't got the guts to get in the ring. There are doers and watchers in this world. I'm a doer. You let people do things for you. You know, Akbar, you think you can just buy the world, just snap your grimy little fingers and things will happen. Well, you're dead wrong.

SA: No, I'm right, *you're* dead. The fact of the matter is, things *do* happen when I snap my fingers. Stick around, pal. Plenty is going to be happening to you any day now.

EE: There's gonna come a time, Akbar, when you'll have run out of lives and men to protect you. This war of ours has been going on for too long and I'm ready to end it. World Class will not be destroyed by you and your men, even if it's the last thing I ever do.

SA: It very well may be. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

WHAT ARE WORDS FOR?

I find it a bit hard to believe that Steve Casey is the reason why Lex Luger suddenly changed his tune ("I Pity The Man Who Calls Me Lex Loser!" September 1989). Luger's always been his own man; I think something else snapped inside of him. Just because Casey said something to him when they passed in the hallway isn't reason enough for Lex to change.

I do think, however, that the Luger we're seeing now is the Luger we'll see for a long time to come, and that's good. He was meant to be an aggressive wrestler. That's the only way he'll ever win a world title.

GREG MOYER
Fresno, CA



Mil Mascaras executes a flying shoulderblock on Zodiac. Mascaras' recent success in World Class has thrilled reader Donna DeBonis.

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HIGH-FLYING MASCARAS

It's great to see Mil Mascaras back wrestling in America ("The Secrets Of High-Flying Success, By Mil Mascaras," September 1989). Mascaras, the famed "Man of 1,000 Masks," is one of the first wrestlers I ever saw, and he's one of the main reasons why I've been hooked on this sport for the past 15 years. Mascaras is one of those rare athletes that can excite a crowd.

It's interesting to note that although Mascaras has always been daring, he's also very smart. His tips to young wrestlers are especially relevant because Mil has always practiced what he preached. That's why, after all these years of high-flying maneuvers, Mil is still in great shape.

DONNA DeBONIS
Des Moines, IA

BLOOD-SUCKING AKBAR

Okay, Gen. Skandor Akbar, you blood-sucking scum: We *accept* your dare! If it was up to us fans in the World Class area, you would've been banned a long time ago, and we wouldn't have felt any the worse for it. If there's one guy responsible for the current turmoil in Texas, it's you.

I just don't understand why you

haven't been banned already. You never follow the rules and you have no respect for the fans. You try to buy wrestlers and then stab them in the back.

Akbar, you're nothing but worthless slime!

JAY PRINCE
Dallas

SAME OLD SHEEPS

I think a lot of people are under the misconception that The Bushwhackers started acting the way they do when they came to the WWF. Nothing could be further from the truth. As The Shepherders in Florida, the UWF, and the NWA, Luke Williams and Butch Miller were two of the most disgusting rulebreakers in all of wrestling. They acted like retards. Nothing has changed!

Of course, now Miller and Williams claim to love the fans and America, which seems kind of farfetched considering how anti-American they used to be. In my mind, Miller and Williams will always be enemies of The United States, whether they call themselves Shepherders or Bushwhackers.

MICHAEL DuBOIS
New Orleans □

Wrestling

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 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
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 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
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 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
 December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
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 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
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 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
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 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

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 September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
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 June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.
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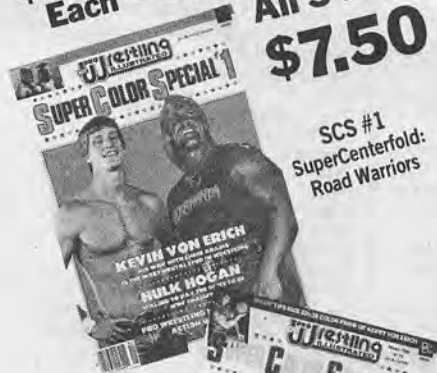
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

but degenerated quickly into a thicket of irreconcilable emotions. The entire affair smacked of Danielle Steel. Other wrestlers, lifelong friends of the "Macho Man," watched in embarrassment and disbelief as their colleague's addiction deepened.

"It was never really good for Savage," one friend said. "From the beginning, he was in love with her. It made him a better wrestler, but at the price of his soul. She ripped his guts out on a daily basis. He became increasingly paranoid.

"Sherri is helping him heal. The best therapy for Savage has always been the ring. But there's no telling what he might do when he confronts Elizabeth."

Is there a woman in all of wrestling who would not trade places with Sensational Sherri? The ex-champion may be the sole beneficiary of all this girl-boy lunacy.

"Martel loves to wrestle and

compete," said Buddy Rose, whom Martel managed to the AWA World tag team title. "And she loves the spotlight. The problem for her was how to gain the exposure her skills deserve. She hit on the perfect solution. The trouble is that she has to work alongside an ugly lunatic like Savage."

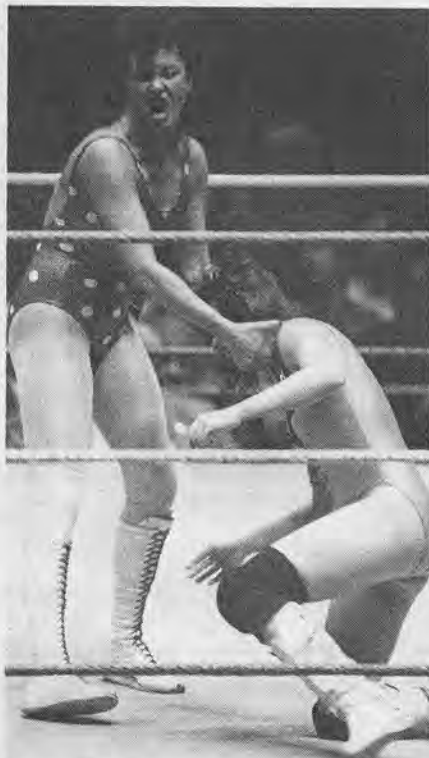
One intriguing scenario has Elizabeth training for a showdown against Sherri (for more on this, see the story on page 34). While the idea is dismissed by most wrestling critics as absurd, Elizabeth herself has never denied the possibility.

"People look at Elizabeth and can't get beyond her beauty," said ex-WWF champion Wendi Richter. "They see this soft, sensual, essentially helpless little girl. Even the idea of her being able to manage Savage's day-to-day affairs was incongruous with her image.

"The truth, though, is that behind the delicate facade, Elizabeth is a tiger. It took more than a sweet smile to keep Savage in line all these years. It would take a lot of training, but if she put her mind to it, I'm sure she could do it."

Nothing would please Sensational Sherri more than a showdown against the lovely Elizabeth. "Sherri is very insecure about her looks," Rose said. "She'd be constantly comparing herself to other women. Face it, pro wrestling takes its toll. If you get your face bashed in every night, you're not going to look like Heather Locklear. Elizabeth will find that out for herself. Those head-turning looks will be sacrificed quickly in the ring. And no one would get greater satisfaction at rearranging those cheekbones than Sherri."

The ultimate question remains: What would Randy Savage do if



Former WWF women's champion Sensational Sherri viciously attacks Rockin' Robin. Elizabeth, who's never wrestled, would be slaughtered by this woman.

Sherri and Elizabeth locked curls in combat? Known for his undying loyalty, would Savage protect Sherri, who has risked her own skin for him several times? Or would love and passion conquer his sense of obligation?

"If Hogan helped train Elizabeth, then there's no question Savage would help Sherri," says Senior Editor Bill Apter. "Savage's deep-rooted loathing of Hogan would conquer whatever lingering feelings he has for Elizabeth. He would want to punish her to get to him. Or punish him to get to her. It gets very confusing."



Elizabeth and Hulk Hogan have become an item in the WWF. Will Hogan's relationship with Elizabeth affect his marriage? Does Elizabeth secretly still love Savage?

Manager/wrestler/saucy vixen Missy Hyatt disagrees with Apter's analysis. "Love hurts, love stinks, but love rules," she says. "Savage could never possibly hurt Elizabeth. Even the blow he struck was done out of love. If it came to a showdown, his loyalty would be with Elizabeth, even if it meant befriending Hogan again. Of course, he may really be over Elizabeth, in which case he won't care what happens to her. It does get confusing."

It certainly does. Today's WWF: You can't tell the players without a program—and a diary. ☐

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DANGEROUSLY VS. CORNETTE

(Continued from page 32)

pre-fan favorite Cornette. Even now, the similarities are startling.

Dangerously uses a portable telephone; Cornette uses a tennis racket.

Dangerously once managed a team called The Midnight Express; Cornette manages a team called The Midnight Express.

Dangerously once was a wrestling photographer and did some work for *Inside Wrestling*; Cornette once was a wrestling photographer and did some work for *Inside Wrestling*.

Both men fit the profile of the modern-day yuppie. But when Dangerously invaded the NWA along with Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey late in 1988, the fans decided to take sides with Cornette. That's the biggest difference between the two.

But try telling that to Cornette and Dangerously, both of whom think they're one of a kind. This war cannot be settled by words outside the ring or by a match inside the ring. It can only be settled when either Cornette or Dangerously leaves the federation. The NWA simply isn't big enough for both men.

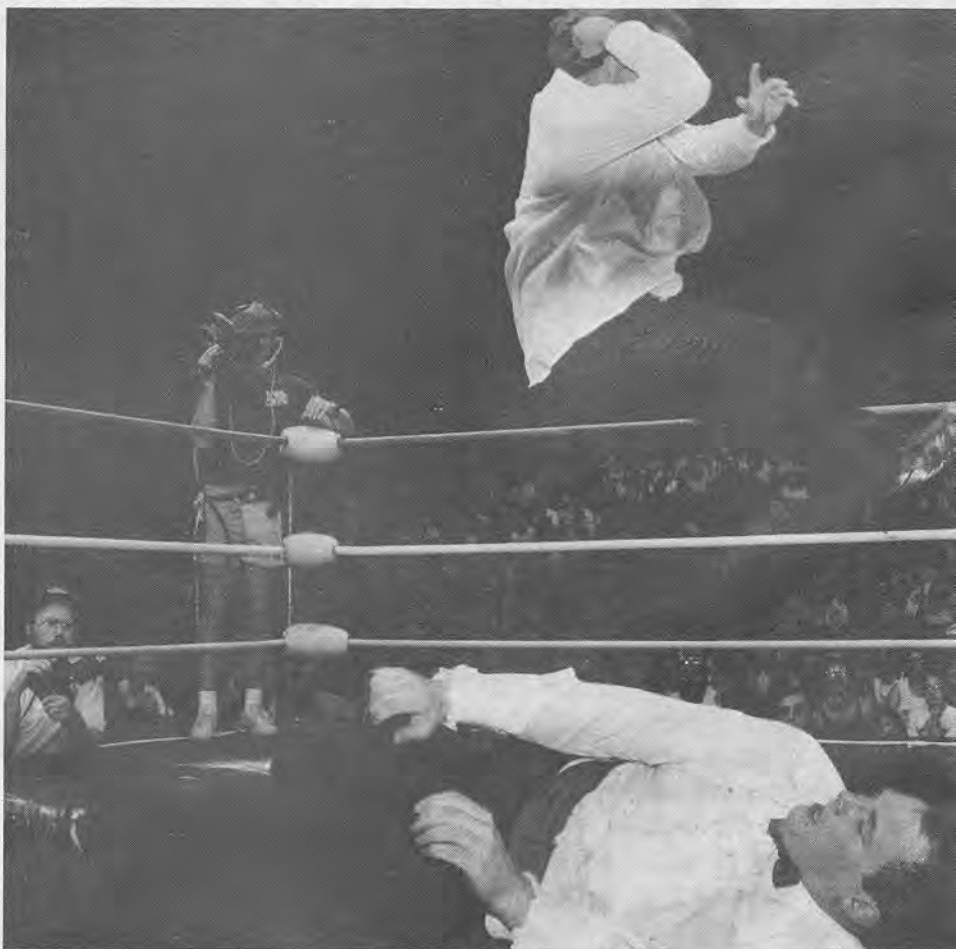
The intensity of their feud, in fact, made this rare manager vs. manager match possible. In most cases, these matches turn into total bores, simply because most managers either have no ring training or are simply poor wrestlers. Cornette, in fact, displayed his lack of ability several years ago at the Great American Bash when he was embarrassed by Baby Doll.

"That wasn't going to happen again, and you know why?" Cornette quipped. "Baby Doll scared the hell out of me a lot more than Dangerously ever did—which ain't much."

Cornette wasn't even frightened by the fact that Dangerously was aware of his biggest weakness.



Dangerously throws powder in Cornette's face (above); Paul E. would later get powder in his face. Cornette attempts to roll out of the way of Paul E.'s elbowdrop (below).



Prior to the match, Dangerously revealed that he knew of a knee injury Cornette suffered at Starrcade '86. "He's done his

homework, he's right," Cornette admitted. "I tore my anterior cruciate ligament, I was hospitalized, and I still wear a brace to the

ring."

Seconds after the opening bell, Dangerously threw powder in Cornette's face, then began working on both of his archrival's knees. He ripped off Cornette's jacket, then pulled off his cummerbund to use as a weapon. Cornette, however, tore the cummerbund away and used it to strangle Dangerously.

But Paul E. regained control and slapped Cornette to the mat. After missing badly with a flying elbow-smash, he rebounded with a series of punches. Cornette psyched himself up sufficiently to floor Dangerously and rip off his shirt, but then Paul E. dipped into his pocket for some more powder. Cornette didn't seem to know what was coming. The end was near.

Cornette, as it turned out, was aware of Dangerously's scheme. As Paul E. strutted toward him, Cornette kicked the powder into his face. Seconds later, Dangerously high-tailed it back to the dressing room, wearing only his blue Fruit of the Looms and a pair of black shoes. As the standing-room-only Baltimore Arena crowd cheered and laughed loudly, Cornette smashed Dangerously's telephone to the canvas and held up his arms in victory.

"That was as sweet as anything that's ever happened to me," Cornette said afterward. "That was as good as 'Sweet' Stan and 'Beautiful' Bobby winning the World tag team championship. That was better than when my Mama sold AT&T one day before the crash. I did it for myself and Mama, but I also did it for the fans out there that have supported me for so long. Dangerously, you've been exposed!"

In more ways than one. Because when a match based on style came down to substance, Cornette wasn't only dressed to kill. He was ready to complete the task, too. How can Paul E. show his face now? ☐

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ELIZABETH

(Continued from page 35)



The Honky Tonk Man shoves Elizabeth out of the way when she tries to save Randy Savage from a beating (above). Martel, Savage's current manager, pounces on Velvet McIntyre (left). This is the kind of beating Sherri would give Elizabeth.

torn apart Elizabeth.)

Martel won her first AWA World women's title from Candi Divine in late 1985, and again from Divine in July 1986. Later, as WWF champ, she held off challenges from Moolah and Velvet McIntyre before finally succumbing to Rockin' Robin last October in Paris.

But Martel has always been as comfortable grappling with men as she has been with women. Many years ago, she got involved in a memorable locker room brawl with Abdullah the Butcher; afterward, Abdullah was the one holding his head. And now, as the manager of Randy Savage, Martel continues to take men on.

With this in mind, Martel must have been shocked when Elizabeth had the guts to confront her

in the ring. Elizabeth, who grew tired of Martel's constant interference, smashed her with a chair, but one could almost see Sherri crack a smile.

She knew who would get the last laugh.

●

Elizabeth has never wrestled. Her past, in fact, is one of almost total non-violence. She has often been at the center of explosive ring incidents, but she's never become physically involved by taking the offensive. Indeed, Elizabeth had never so much as defended herself against Savage's occasionally violent tirades.

For that reason, it's hard to believe that Elizabeth is finally getting violent out of her new devotion to Hogan. More likely, this is a classic catfight: woman against





Elizabeth struts around the ring after last year's SummerSlam (top). A former WWF World women's champion, Martel defends that title against Rockin' Robin (above).

woman for one man. That man is Savage. It's unfortunate that Elizabeth has been reduced to such a base emotion as jealousy, but that's the way it seems.

But she is going about revenge the wrong way. There's a very thin line between bravery and stupidity.

Elizabeth is putting life and limb in danger. She can't win a match against Sensational Sherri.

So, America, pray that it never happens. ☐

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FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.



SUMMER 1986

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

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STING

(Continued from page 37)



"There's absolutely nothin' about that guy I like. I don't care for the way he *looks*, the way he *talks*, or the way he *wrestles*. And since he's the TV champion, it gives me all the more reason to try to skin his damnable hide."

Those words spoke volumes about Funk's motivation for blindsiding Sting. Even in his prime during the '70s, when he spent 14 months as NWA World champion, Funk's main goal was always money. When he won the title in 1975, he quickly proclaimed that he would soon become the richest man in the sport. He managed to do that (one 1976 poll named him among the 20 top moneymakers in sports), but he often escaped from his title matches by intentionally being disqualified or counted out.

In that regard, Sting is worlds apart from Funk. It is clear from his enthusiasm and drive that Sting wrestles for the love of the

Attacks by Terry Funk have necessitated Sting being carried to the dressing room on a stretcher on several occasions. Sting certainly won't take this lying down!



game and the competition, rather than for the financial rewards the sport brings. Wrestling gives Sting the opportunity to use his incredible athletic gifts to their fullest capacity.

"Hey, I wrestle 'cause I enjoy the thrills, baby," insisted Sting af-

ter recovering from Funk's attack. "It seems Funk would rather cheat his way to victory, but I'm more of a competitor than that. It's also pretty apparent that Funk is jealous. Why else would he attack a guy he hasn't even wrestled yet? I think Funk knows that young stars like me are rising to the top faster than he ever could, and his ego just can't deal with it."

Sting's claim may have a great deal of validity. The Texan sees Sting being touted as a future world champion, while the Funk name is considered a relic by many fans. It is a fact that gnaws at his soul.

"All that high-flying stuff Sting does don't impress me," complained Funk. "And that scorpion leglock may be deadly to most of his opponents, but something like that is child's play for a veteran like me to break. Just wait'll you see what I do to that punk when I get my hands on him. I'll show

the whole damn world what a *real* wrestler is like."

What Funk actually showed was how desperate a man can get. When Sting and Funk finally locked up in Boston near the end of the Bash tour, Funk's incessantly vile tactics forced the action out of the ring throughout most of the match. At one point, Sting was dominating the bout when Funk removed the tape from around his wrist and used it to try to strangle his game opponent.

Sting battled back valiantly against everything Funk could throw at him—until Norman the Lunatic ran into the ring, forcing the referee to disqualify Funk. Sting managed to capture Norman in a scorpion leglock, but Funk grabbed a chair and brought it down hard over Sting's head, leaving the young star unconscious.

"Another match, another sneak-attack," said Sting, rubbing his head afterward. "You know, I used to read all the time about what proud people Terry and Dory Funk were. Now, all Terry does is cheat and rely on outside interference. But what's his point? It seems to me that Funk is older and just not as good as he used to be. If you ask me, the guy is yesterday's news—and he knows it."

"He was lucky to escape with his life tonight," laughed Funk after the match. "He called me yesterday's news? The next time I get my hands on that punk, *he's* gonna be the one who's history."

Once again, Terry Funk has made headlines with his sadistic actions. First, he attacked Ric Flair. Now, he's brutalized Sting. Funk will go to any lengths in order to prove he's still a viable contender. But as a result of his actions, he's now got two of wrestling's biggest stars trying to eliminate him.

Perhaps he's made *too* much of an impression. ☐

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



Jimmy Snuka just missed hitting Bob Backlund with his leap off the top of the cage in 1982. Dave Rosenbaum maintains that the psychological impact of that failure has had a profound effect on Snuka's subsequent career.

spent the last seven years of his life dwelling on that one night in Madison Square Garden.

"It's all such a blur," Backlund said in a recent interview. "I was barely conscious, and I thought I saw him out of the corner of my left eye on top of the cage. Then, I just saw this mass coming at me, and my instincts took over. No doubt, it was a spectacular move by Snuka, but that's the way it is in sports. The line between success and failure is very thin."

In Snuka's case, it was a matter of a split-second. Snuka didn't get the belt, though he still had his great ability and daring and could have gone on to great things. But he failed to rebound from that moment and let his career slip away.

Perhaps that explains why, years later, Snuka got involved in a senseless AWA feud with Col. DeBeers. He had nothing to lose and nothing to gain, except to silence the racist DeBeers. But there was no title on the line. Snuka was playing it safe: He had taken his one big chance in 1982, and wasn't ready to take any more chances.

Now he's back in the WWF and involved in another senseless feud with Honky Tonk Man. Time is wasting away for Snuka.

I'm reminded of an interview with WWF head Vince McMahon Jr., in the Winter 1986 edition of *Wrestling 86*, in which the WWF head said: "'Superfly' Snuka is ... I think a lot of people would say he's somewhat of a basket case, and you can't do anything with that."

But when did Snuka go from great wrestler to basket case? The Jimmy Snuka we're seeing now is not a contender for the WWF World title. At best, he's a contender for the Intercontinental title. That makes sense, because ever since he failed to achieve the WWF's ultimate prize, Snuka has been willing to settle for second best.

Ralph Branca was 25 years old when he gave up the homer to Bobby Thomson. That year, he had won 13 games and posted an ERA of 3.26. From 1947 to '51, he won 13 or more games four out of five years. He won four games in each of the next three seasons and retired in 1956.

Being the goat is never easy.

Executing one of the most memorable leaps in wrestling history and falling flat on your face is even worse.

It's been said that there are two sides to every story and the truth is somewhere in between. I can't think of a situation where that applies more than in the case of Jake "The Snake" Roberts and John Bartlett (see story on page 42).

Bartlett claimed that Roberts struck him after the two had spent a night on the town in Daytona, Florida. Roberts claimed that he pushed Bartlett aside in self-defense and never struck him. A jury of six people believed Bartlett and found Roberts guilty of aggravated battery. The popular WWF star now faces 12-30 months in prison.

But what *really* happened? Bartlett said that he and Roberts were drinking, but Roberts was drinking more. Roberts said that Bartlett was extremely drunk. Bartlett said that Roberts was making disparaging remarks about Daytona and its women. Roberts said that Bartlett was mouthing off about how tough he was and actually challenged the much larger wrestler.

And there's more. Bartlett was seriously injured, but went to sleep that night without going to a hospital and reported to work the next morning. Bear in mind, now, that Bartlett had suffered a fractured eye cup and a broken cheekbone in four places.

Sounds to me like two men went out, got drunk, and got into a fight. Roberts won big. Now he faces time in jail. But here's a guy with a clean record and a long slate of charitable service who made one mistake.

Is it really necessary to send Jake Roberts to jail? □

THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)



The Road Warriors are set for a major feud with The Freebirds, partly because of something Eddie Ellner *didn't* tell Ellering.

sullen mask of fury. He says: "Sir, now that you've wasted the few precious moments I have to socialize, you should be aware the paper you signed is a restraining order that says you acknowledge and are aware under penalty of jail of the injunction that restricts you from being within 1,000 feet of my presence. As I am about to call the police this very moment, I suggest you run the fastest 440 of your life, lest you be cooling your heels in the slammer while Belinda's pot roast gets stale."

The fan unblinkingly stares at Ellering in complete disbelief. Finally, Ellering screams, "Get the hell out of here, you numbskull." The fan turns and flees the restaurant.

"I like to accommodate the public whenever I can," Ellering says by way of explanation, "but I can't stomach rudeness and stupidity. The injunction, incidentally, is legally binding. A gift from a Circuit Court judge who dotes on the Warriors."

So who *doesn't* dote on the Warriors these days? Michael Hayes, that's who. After dinner, Ellering, citing administrative burden, declined my invitation to explore the Atlanta nightlife. Momentum propelled me to go it alone.

At my third stop, a strange hand squeezed my shoulder.

"Yo, Ellner," said an unsober Michael Hayes. "Sit down, lemme tell ya a story." The "story" was nothing more than a series of boozy threats aimed at the Warriors.

I dismissed most of what Hayes said to the liquor doing the boasting and never bothered to mention it to Ellering, with whom I spoke briefly in the dressing room the next night in Marietta.

It was an omission he may hold against me. Midway through the cage match pitting the Warriors against Terry Gordy and Jim Garvin (last-minute substitutes for the Samoan Swat Team), Hayes surprised everyone but me when he attacked referee Tommy Young and opened the cage to allow himself and the Swats in. What followed was as brutal a bloodletting as I've seen in a lifetime of ring-watching. The Samoans, Hayes, Gordy, and Garvin overwhelmed the Warriors with fists and kicks. They handcuffed Animal to the ring ropes and mercilessly beat him to a pulp. Hawk had to be carried from the ring on a stretcher. In all, the Warriors spilled enough blood to start a donor bank.

Was I at fault not to warn Ellering? I absolve myself of blame for two reasons. One, I am a journalist, not an agent for the Warriors. It is my job to report the news, not create it. Two, had I mentioned my conversation with Hayes to Ellering, he would have shrugged his shoulders with indifference. Would you believe anything Hayes said in a bar at 2 a.m.? And think of it this way: Had I said anything, we wouldn't have the vicious feud about to unfold.

Don't thank me. I'm just doing my job. □

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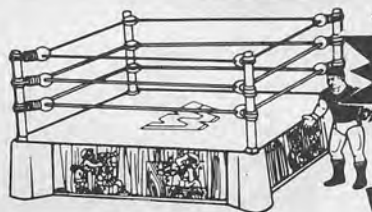
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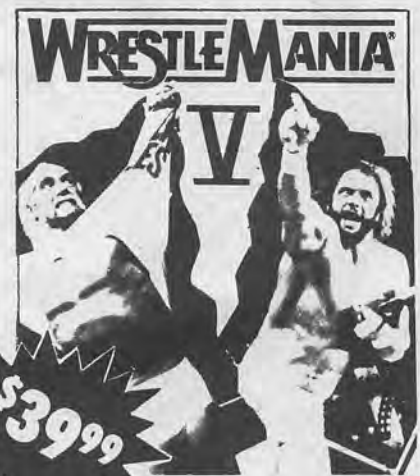
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- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
U.S. champion

- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 5—**STING**
No. 1 contender: NWA TV title
- 6—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
WWF Intercontinental champion

- 8—**JERRY LAWLER**
World Class champion
- 9—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
AWA World champion
- 10—**CHRIS BENOIT**
British Commonwealth champion
- 11—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title

- 12—**THE GREAT MUTA**
No. 2 contender: U.S. title
- 13—**DENNIS CONDREY**
CWF champion
- 14—**GREG GAGNE**
AWA TV champion
- 15—**ERIC EMBRY**
No. 1 contender: WCCW Texas title

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX

- 4—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 6—**THE GREAT MUTA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 7—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK

- 8—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—**RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 10—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 11—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN

- 12—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 13—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 14—**SCOTT STEINER**
235, Bay City, MI
- 15—**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**
380, Saginaw, MI

AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

- 4—**AKIO SATO**
238, Tokyo, Japan
- 5—**SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE**
235, Iraq
- 6—**DERRICK DUKES**
235, Boston, MA
- 7—**MIKE GEORGE**
265, St. Joseph, MO

- 8—**PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 9—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
- 10—**SCOTT NORTON**
360, Minneapolis, MN
- 11—**JON STEWART**
242, Pacific Palisades, CA

- 12—**TOMMY JAMMER**
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 13—**MIKE ENOS**
252, Minneapolis, MN
- 14—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, S. Africa
- 15—**WAYNE BLOOM**
266, Minneapolis, MN

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 5—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 6—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 7—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 8—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 9—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 10—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 11—**HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN

- 12—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 13—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 14—**BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
- 15—**BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: unrated

- 4—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

- 8—**RICK STEINER**
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 9—**ERIC EMBRY**
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10—**OWEN HART**
Last month: unrated
- 11—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular

- 12—**KERRY VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- 13—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
- 14—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular
- 15—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1—**TERRY FUNK**
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3—**ZEUS**
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated

- 4—**RICK RUDE**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 6—**THE GREAT MUTA**
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

- 8—**BIG BOSSMAN**
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 9—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 10—**DENNIS CONDREY**
Last month: unrated
- 11—**THE GRAPPLER**
Last month: unrated

- 12—**COL. DeBEERS**
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated
- 13—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated
- 14—**BIG STEEL MAN**
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated
- 15—**AL PEREZ**
Last month: unrated

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
WWF World tag team champions
- 2—**MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN**
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—**DEMOLITION**
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 4—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 5—**THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title

- 6—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7—**AKEEM & BIG BOSSMAN**
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title
- 10—**JEFF JARRETT & MATT BORNE**
World Class tag team champions

- 11—**SID VICIOUS & DAN SPIVEY**
No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 12—**CHRIS CHAMPION & MARK STARR**
CWA tag team champions
- 13—**JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**
No. 5 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 14—**STEVE DOLL & SCOTT PETERSON**
PNW tag team champions
- 15—**TRACEY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG**
CWF tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended July 28, 1989

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

* ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: DON MURACO

(June 30, 1989; from Chavo Guerrero; Delmar, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO

(September 24, 1988; from The Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS

(June 6, 1989; from Toshiaki Kawada & Sampson Fuyuki; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(June 6, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STAN HANSEN & TERRY GORDY

(December 16, 1988; tournament final over Genichiro Tenryu & Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

* ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE MALENKO

(July 1, 1989; from Mitsuo Mornota; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(June 6, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: LIONESS ASUKA

(January 29, 1989; over Chigusa Nagayo; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

AKIRA HOKKUTO & SHIZUKA MINAMI

(June 18, 1989; tournament final over Kumiko Iwamoto & Nobuko Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEN PATERA & BRAD RHEINGANS

(March 25, 1989; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)

* BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: CHRIS BENOIT

(July 8, 1989; from Johnny Smith; Grand Prairie, Alberta)

* CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNIS CONDREY

(July 22, 1989; from Tom Prichard; Dothan, AL)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TRACEY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG

(By CWF official's decision)

CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN DAVIS

(June 9, 1989; from Alan Martin; Knoxville, TN)

CWA CHAMPION: BLACK BART

(June 19, 1989; from Jeff Jarrett; Memphis, TN)

* CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS CHAMPION & MARK STARR

(July 10, 1989; from Perry Jackson & Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)

* FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Jim Backlund)

FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by The Nasty Boys)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

* ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOE SAVOLDI & VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 1, 1989; from Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia; Marlboro, MA)

* IWGP CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU

(July 12, 1989; from Salman Hashimikov; Osaka, Japan)

* IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

RIKI CHOSHU & TAKAYUKI IZUKI

(July 13, 1989; from Super Strong Machine & George Takano; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER

(May 25, 1989; from Hiro Hase; Osaka, Japan)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE ROAD WARRIORS & GENICHIRO TENRYU

(December 7, 1988; via Animal's victory over Dusty Rhodes; Chattanooga, TN)

NWA TV CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Sting)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN

(June 14, 1989; tournament final over Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane; Ft. Bragg, NC)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Carl Styles)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TOP GUN & SCOTTY THE BODY

(July 8, 1989; from Steve Doll & Scott Peterson; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(June 6, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo, Japan)

* PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(July 22, 1989; from Stan Hansen & Genichiro Tenryu; Kanazawa, Japan)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON

(April 28, 1989; from Davey Boy Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BOB & KERRY BROWN

(June 9, 1989; Chris Benoit & Beef Wellington; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)

WORLD CLASS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Eric Embry)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE & SHAUN SIMPSON

(April 28, 1989; from Beauty & The Beast; Dallas, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & MATT BORNE

(June 30, 1989; from Brian Lee & Robert Fuller; Dallas, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: P.Y. CHU-HI

(June 30, 1989; from Eric Embry; Wichita Falls, TX)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: RIP ROGERS

(May 14, 1989; from TNT; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(June 9, 1989; from Brad & Bart Batten; Jayuya, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHICKY STARR

(June 24, 1989; from Super Medic; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(April 15, 1989; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: IVAN KOLOFF

(July 15, 1989; from Invader I; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(July 16, 1989; from Rip Rogers & Abughdadien; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: STEVE STRONG

(May 27, 1989; from Carlos Colon; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(April 2, 1989; from Ultimate Warrior; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

* WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

(July 18, 1989; from Demolition; Worcester, MA)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sheri Martel; Paris, France)

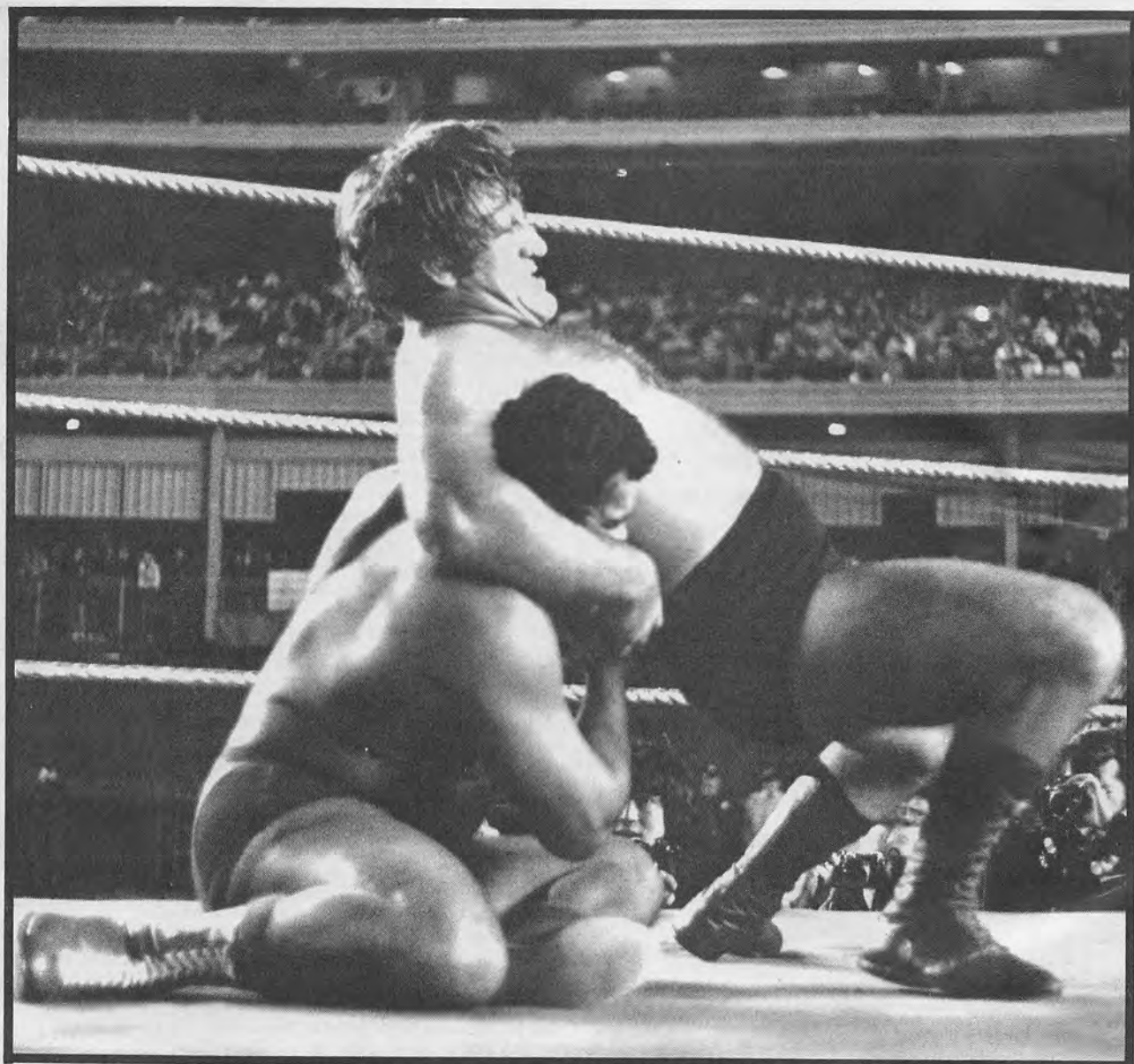
WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

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This Month In Wrestling History

“The Match of the Century”



BRUNO SAMMARTINO vs. PEDRO MORALES

September 30, 1972

It began with a misunderstanding. But by the time they were done with each other, WWF champion Pedro Morales and former titleholder Bruno Sammartino had engaged in one of the finest bouts of modern times. Billed as “The Match of the Century,” Sammartino and Morales, both respected fan favorites, agreed to wrestle at New York’s Shea Stadium after they exchanged heated words during a tag team match. More than 27,000 fans were treated to a display of greatness as the two legends wrestled to an amazing 76-minute curfew draw—every minute of it scientific. When the final bell rang, Sammartino reached out and shook Morales’ hand, cementing their friendship and providing a fitting ending to one of the decade’s most memorable events.

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